

58c

T H E
M E M O I R S
O F
MAJOR EDWARD M'GAURAN,
(Grandson of Colonel BRYAN M'GAURAN, Baron
M'GAURAN of TALAHA, in the County of CAVAN,
in the Kingdom of IRELAND)

An ENSIGN in General LOUDON's Austrian
Regiment of Foot;

VOLUNTEER with Admiral ELPHINSTONE on board
the RUSSIAN Squadron, on his Expedition against the
TURKS;

CADET in the Honourable the EAST-INDIA COMPANY's
Forces;

MAJOR in the Service of PORTUGAL;

A N D

A LIEUTENANT in the BRITISH ARMY in AMERICA.

I N T E R S P E R S E D

With many interesting ANECDOTES, relative to the
Military Transactions in which he was concerned;
and Characters of the most distinguished Personages.

I N A S E R I E S O F L E T T E R S
I N T H R E E V O L U M E S,
W R I T T E N B Y H I M S E L F.

V O L U M E I.

L O N D O N:

Printed for and sold by the AUTHOR, at No. 73,
Berner's-Street.

M D C C L X X X V I.

M E M O I R S

O F

MAJOR EDWARD MCGARRAN

(Grandson of Colonel KEAY, MCGARRAN, Esq.,
MCGARRAN in the County of Kerry,
in the Kingdom of Ireland)

An English in General Leeson's Austrian
Regiment of Foot;

Volunteer with Admiral Leston on board
the Russian ship, on his expedition to the
Tunis;

Captain in the 1st Battalion of the 1st
Regiment of Foot;

MAJOR in the 1st Battalion of the 1st
Regiment of Foot;

A Lieutenant in the British Army in America.

INTERPRETED

With many interesting anecdotes related to the
Military Service in which he was engaged;
and Character of the most distinguished persons.

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS

IN THREE VOLUMES

WRITTEN BY H. M. GARRAN

VOLUME I

L O N D O N

Printed for and sold by A. & C. Black, 21, New
Street, London.

MDCCLXXVI

M E M O I R S, &c.

L E T T E R I.

To COLONEL —

London, October 1st, 1785.

DURING the many social hours we have passed together, and in which the different scenes of life I have gone through, have frequently furnished a topic for our conversation; you have more than once solicited me, my worthy and much esteemed friend, to digest the principal of them into a regular detail, and commit them to paper for the amusement of yourself, and such of my acquaintance as take an interest in my concerns.

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A variety of circumstances, some of them not of the most pleasing kind, have hitherto prevented me from complying with these solicitations:—But they shall now be obeyed—

I will endeavour to recal to my memory, the most material events of my life; and flatter myself, that you will trace the recital of them with a friendly eye; considering that a person in my line, and one who has been constantly engaged in the service of so many different powers, cannot be so well qualified for the task you have enjoined me, as if more of my time had been employed in literary pursuits.

However, as I always consider your requests as *commands*, I shall begin; and continue my narrative, as often as leisure from necessary avocations permits.—I should add, as often as a rheumatic pain, the consequence of many a cold damp night passed in the open field, or among swamps and morasses, will favour me with an intermission of its attacks.

All

All who are descended from the ancient families of Ireland, pride themselves not a little on their lineage.—For, as Richardson, I think, somewhere observes, those only despise the advantages of noble descent, who can make no pretensions to it.—I shall therefore first speak of my genealogy, which from the clearest proofs, and most authentic records, can be traced up to O'Connor the last King of the Province of Connaught, and Sovereign of all Ireland, and through him up to Milé, the first Prince of the Milesians that settled in that country.

As the ancient Britons had their bards, who composed songs relating to the actions of their chiefs and illustrious men, so in Ireland every principal family had its *Shannachy* or bards, who recorded not only their exploits, but likewise their genealogy and alliances.

The English historians indeed assert, that Ireland first received her inhabitants from

Britain, by means of colonies transported from thence; and adduce as a proof, the names of the people of many of the districts, corresponding with those to be found in Britain, such as the *Brigantes*, *Coriandi*, &c.—I shall not dispute the authenticity of these accounts, as the records of our family reach no higher than the landing of our ancestors the Milesians, who are supposed originally to have inhabited a tract of country lying on the coast of the Red Sea, and to have emigrated from thence into Syria. Such migrations were customary among the people of the first ages, when they found themselves straitened for room through an increase of numbers.

From this situation, likewise, after having inhabited, probably, some spot on the maritime borders of Asia Minor, and there acquired a knowledge of the art of navigation, some of them penetrated into the Western Ocean, and established themselves in Spain, now called Biscay.—My conjecture
that

that this people formerly resided on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean, is corroborated by several authors who assert, that they either built or possessed the castles of Sestos and Abydos, at the entrance of the Hellespont; places rendered famous by being the scene of the unfortunate loves of "the swimming lover and nightly bride."

A formidable body of this people, afterwards under the command of Milé or Miles, found their way to the coast of Ireland, then called Ierne, about the year of the world 2930, and dispossessed the Danonians, who had governed that country for one hundred and ninety-seven years, during the reign of nine monarchs.

The Milesians having thus effected an establishment, assumed the government, which they held for the space of two thousand one hundred and eighty-seven years, during the reigns of one hundred and sixty-six kings, till the year of Christ 1172, when a great part

8 MEMOIRS OF

of the Irish submitted to Henry II. King of England.

From a younger branch of the family of O'Connor, the last monarch of Ireland, is mine descended. And the place of their residence, now vulgarly called *Talaha*, received its original name, which was *Tealleagh-Achy*, that is the seat of Achilles, from one of our predecessors, Achilles M'Gauran.

Our family seat once formed a part of the province of Connaught, till it was annexed to that of Ulster, when the Baron M'Gauran, joined his relations and allies, O'Neil Earl of Tyrone; O'Donnel, Earl of Tyrconnel; O'Reiley, Earl of Cavan; M'Guire, Baron of Inniskillen, and the greatest part of the nobility of Ulster, in taking up arms to oppose the sovereignty of Queen Elizabeth.

From the time the English had assumed the government of Ireland, there had been commotions and rebellions during every reign, but

MAJOR M. GAURAN. 9

but none so formidable as this, when the Spaniards having landed a considerable body of troops, those noblemen joined them from the North, with a large army. But being overcome by the Lord Deputy Mountjoy, they were obliged for a time to submit.

They however made another attempt during the reign of King James the First, to free their country, which proving unsuccessful, they were all attainted, and their lands amounting to five hundred eleven thousand four hundred and sixty-five acres, confiscated; of which those belonging to the Baron, my ancestor, were upwards of thirty thousand. The distribution of these lands enabled King James to establish the protestant plantation in Ulster; which, from being the most rebellious province in the kingdom, became the most quiet and reformed.

On the 16th of April, 1746, the day on which the memorable battle of Culloden was fought, I first drew my breath, at the ancient residence.

residence of the M'Gauran family, called from them Balli M'Gauran, (Talaha being the name of the barony).—It is a market town of some note, wherein four considerable fairs are annually held. During their prosperous days, a stately castle reared its head, adjoining to the town, and was the abode of the Barons, but it was dismantled by order of Oliver Cromwell, and now lies in ruins.

My great grandfather having thus involved himself in O'Neil's rebellion, and thereby forfeited his estates, they remained in the Crown till the reign of King James the Second, when they were restored to his grandson Colonel Bryan M'Gauran, for the assistance he afforded that monarch during the stand he made in Ireland against King William.

The revolution which succeeded, prevented my grandfather from reaping any benefit from James's gracious intentions, and he had the mortification to see the estates which had just been granted him, bestowed by William

on those who had favoured his cause.—And such was his hapless fate, that bereft of his title and property, he was even obliged to become a tenant of a small part of those lands his ancestors had for so many centuries been Lords of.

My father succeeded my grandfather in his farm; but so inexperienced were the natives of that part of Ireland, then, in the art of agriculture; or so indolent was he, and so loth to abate of that hospitality to which he had always been accustomed, that he gave up the lease of an estate, as not being worth holding, that now brings in to its present possessor, the Earl of Tyrone, between seven and eight hundred a year.

Thus have I given you, my dear Colonel, the best account I am able of my lineage.—As you, probably, have never seen an Hibernian pedigree, I am almost induced to copy our's for your perusal.—But the extreme length of it deters me.—I fear you

will think I have already been much too
 prolix in what I have said on the subject.—
 You must however consider, that it comes
 from a man who has little else to boast of
 from his ancestors, but that his veins are filled
 with Milesian blood.

Here permit me to give a little respite to
my fingers and *your* eyes—by assuring you,
 that I am,

Yours, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

LETTER

LETTER II.

London, October 6th, 1785.

I Again resume my pen.—In my earliest youth, as I have often told you, I shewed an inclination for a military life.—Martial music was ever the most pleasing of any to my ears;—and nothing gave me so much delight, as the manœuvre of a regiment, at a review.

This propensity my father did not discourage; but as he had a numerous offspring beside myself, it was not in his power to enable me to enter on my military career in the style my descent and connexions seemed to claim.—This however did not in the least damp my ardour.—For about the time I entered my seventeenth year, some drafts being made from different regiments, in order to recruit the Irish Carabineers, then serving under Prince Ferdinand in Germany, I determined

to accompany some of my relations who were among those who had been drafted. This corps, I need not inform you, is the third Regiment of horse; and being chiefly composed of the younger branches of genteel families is held in Ireland in some esteem.

With these I accordingly embarked for Germany, but in what capacity I can scarcely say.—I had not enlisted, but was admitted among them as a kind of volunteer.—Indeed I may now inform you, that my motive for going with them was not to serve in the army they were to join, but to endeavour to make my way to the Austrian forces, then acting in Silesia, against the King of Prussia. I was not very distantly related to the second in command, Count O'Donnel, and several officers of rank: consequently I doubted not of finding my inclinations properly encouraged, and of being more in the way of promotion, than in the service of any other power.

At

At that period, too, many of my countrymen, who would otherwise have rendered themselves useful in the armies and fleets of the government under which they were born, were driven by the restrictions, on account of their religious principles, to seek in foreign climes for that employment they could not find at home.—The national bravery of the Irish has, of course, been exerted in favour of nations, to the interests of which they were indifferent, and even against Great-Britain itself. To the honour of this kingdom, more liberal sentiments have lately prevailed.

After a tedious passage, we arrived at Bremerlehe in the Dutchy of Bremen; and having passed through Hanover, joined, during the campaign of 1762, the allied army, which was then encamped at Goodsenberg, near the City of Cassel.

You may probably expect that I should give you some account of the places in Germany

many through which I passed, or resided in.—If I do, it must be very concise; as I was at that time too young and inexperienced to make any judicious observations.—I shall therefore, only whilst I am writing the first years of my ramblings, make a few cursory remarks, and endeavour to supply the deficiency with the relation of such occurrences, as struck me most forcibly.

Hanover is divided by the River Leine, into the old and new town. From this situation it is said to have received its name. For as the river begins here to be navigable for small boats, in ancient times there was a ferry over it; and *Hanover* signifying, in the old Saxon tongue, the same as *Have-over*, in English, the place was denominated so.

In the *Altstadt*, or Old Town, is the Electoral Palace, which fronts the Leine, and is a good building, richly furnished and adorned with tapestry and paintings. In the palace is a noble collection of the most curious productions

ductions of nature and art; with a great variety of medals, both ancient and modern. And in the church belonging to it, which is very superb, is kept a treasure of great value, consisting of reliques, gold and silver plate, and gems, collected by Duke Henry, named the Lion, during his expedition into the East, in the twelfth century.—But what pleased me more than any other sight, as being most suitable to my taste and years, was the armoury; which is well furnished with every warlike implement.

In the *Neustadt*, or new town, which is situated on the other side of the river, are several good buildings; and in both the towns, the streets are broad and regular. The number of gardens and fine seats which ly adjacent, make the environs very pleasant.

Without the *Steintbor*, or stone gate, is a delightful vista, leading to *Mount Brilliant* and *Herenhausen*, two palaces belonging to the Elector. The gardens of the latter are
very

very magnificent. They contain one of the finest orangeries in Europe, a very grand *jet d'eau*, noble fountains, a wilderness of evergreens, and a perfect theatre, with arbours and summer houses on both sides of it, for the actors to dress in.

Upon my landing in Germany, I could not help observing the similarity there was between the habitations of the boors of this, and those of the peasants of my own country.—The houses belonging to persons of that rank in the Electorate of Hanover are, like those in Ireland, low, of a considerable length, and thatched with straw.—At one end is the apartment allotted for their cows, hogs, geese, and other domestic animals.—At the opposite end a space for the accommodation of the family.—And in the intermediate division is the fire-place.

The latter consists only of a hearth-stone, round which the inhabitants generally form a circle, and over it is an aperture through the

the thatch, which serves for a chimney, and on the outside of which the Stork usually makes its nest.—This bird is considered by the natives as a welcome visitor, as they have an idea that the house is not lucky on which the Stork does not build.—Indeed it is said, that they generally pay well for their quarters; as upon their periodical departure, a piece of silver of some kind or other, is found in their nest, which they have picked up and brought there during their abode; it being a quality of this bird, to be attracted by any thing that has a glittering appearance.—Be this at it may, it is reckoned a crime to kill them, or to destroy their nests.

At the time I joined the forces of the allies, which was in July, 1762, the negotiations for peace between the belligerent powers, were considerably advanced. Notwithstanding which, both armies were upon the watch to take advantage of each other.—It is neither in my power, as I had not then acquired military knowledge enough, nor is it consistent with my

my plan, to give you a particular account of their state and transactions.—For this I must beg leave to refer you to the Chronicles of the Times. —Suffice it to say, that the troops belonging to the allies, were commanded by Prince Ferdinand, the Hereditary Prince of Brunswick, and the Marquis of Granby. Those of the French, by the Prince de Soubize, (Marshal Broglie being lately removed) and Marshal D'Estrees.—Some actions had lately happened between them, but during the time I continued in the English camp, they remained inactive.

Immediately after my arrival, I applied to Colonel Napier, and desired to be admitted a volunteer in the Carabineers;—but he observing my youth, told me, he thought I was not strong enough to bear the fatigue that I should be obliged to go through if I acted as a private trooper, and he was apprehensive that my purse would not enable me to mess with the officers.

I own

I own I did not take this refusal much to heart, my views not being confined, as already mentioned, to the combined army,—but how to carry my design into execution, was the point;—many difficulties opposed even the attempt.—The French camp was within four miles of the English, and in such a position, as to cut off all communication with Frankfort on the Maine, the only place from which I could proceed, with safety, to the Austrian forces, then in Silesia, under the command of Marshal Daun.—This being the case, I determined to make myself as easy as possible, and having several of my relations both officers and privates, serving with the allies, to pass away my time as agreeably as I could, till I should be able to find an opportunity of reaching the French army, which must be the first step towards the accomplishment of my wishes.

In this state of uncertainty and expectation I remained for several weeks spending my time, sometimes in the tent of one friend, and sometimes

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In this state of uncertainty and expectation I remained for several weeks spending my time, sometimes in the tent of one friend, and sometimes

sometimes in that of another—but afraid to intrust even the most intimate of them with my design.

At length, as I was one morning, about the middle of August, in the tent of Lieutenant Reilly, who was then absent on duty at headquarters, his servant came suddenly in, and told me, he had orders to strike it and pack it up, as the army was forming in order of battle.

I immediately stepped out, when I perceived both the horse and foot were drawn up, but had as yet not moved off their ground. Upon this I returned, and after putting into my pockets two books, the Life of Marshal Berwick, and a French Grammar, and upon my back, three shirts, one over the other, that I might not be in want of linen, threw my portmanteau into one of the baggage waggons, and never saw it more.

We soon perceived the French to be in motion, marching from their camp by columns;

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lums; and not long after, a brisk cannonade was heard at a distance.—The report was, that the Marquis of Granby had attacked the van guard of the enemy.—About three o'clock, P. M. the whole of the English infantry had marched; and the cavalry being left to cover the rear, they also, soon after, wheeled off by squadrons, on a brisk trot; and in about an hour, they were all out of sight.

Here, as my paper reminds me that it is time to conclude, with fresh assurances,

I remain,

Yours, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

LETTER

...and not long after a British cannon
made was heard at a distance.—The report
was that the British had attacked the
van guard of the enemy.—About three
miles to the south of the English camp.

October 10th, 1785.

THE British horse having thus suddenly
moved off, I found myself left alone
on the extensive plain of Goothenberg, amidst
heaps of burning straw—the day was closing
fast, and the army at such a distance, that I
could scarce have overtaken it, had I been so
inclined, or known which way to shape my
course. Besides, my being unacquainted with
the language of the country was an additional
obstacle.

...and so.

After remaining some time in this forlorn
situation, lost in thought, I determined to
make towards the French camp at Crombach,
which I perceived to be still standing, the
main body of their army not having moved.

Two small rivers, the Fulde and the Alder
divided their camp from the English.—I
crossed

crossed the first over a bridge. But before I could reach the second, I fell in with a body of Hanoverian horse, which had been left behind as a scouting party, and were at this very time cannonaded by the French.

When the Hanoverians saw me approach, concluding I was in search of the English army, they pointed out to me the route it had taken; and by this time, finding their own situation too warm, they quitted it.

They had no sooner left me, than I became sensible of my danger. The approaching darkness did not in the least tend to abate my apprehensions; and I began to fear that a stop would soon be put, by some unlucky shot from the French artillery, to that plan of military achievements I had laid down.

As it was the first time I had been in such a critical situation, I must acknowledge I found myself much agitated; and looking

around to seek for some shelter, I espied a large willow tree situated by the side of the river, on the top of which I hoped to find a place of more security. But I had no sooner ascended my leafy asylum, than my perturbation increased.—For I began to consider, that my being thus elevated, placed me more on a level with the French cannon, and increased my danger; therefore, concluding that their posts were at no great distance, as I could see their fires, and hear their voices, I descended from my retreat, and made towards them.

I had not gone far before I found my design interrupted by the current of the Fulda. What was now to be done?—I was afraid to call aloud, lest I should be overheard by any of the out-parties of the English or Hanoverians, and considered as a deserter. However, after some time, I summoned up resolution enough to call out in the French language, of which I had acquired some little knowledge.

As soon as I had done this, two light dragoons came to the opposite shore, and asked me whether I was a deserter? Upon my answering in the affirmative, they immediately crossed the river, in doing which they were up to the skirts of their saddles. And notwithstanding the water was so deep, they would not suffer me to get up behind either of them, but told me to take hold of the tails of both the horses; which, as there was now no other alternative, I found myself necessitated to do. In this manner we entered the stream, and by the time I had reached the middle, I was breast high, and lost my footing: but keeping firm hold of my equestrian pilots, I at length landed in safety.

On this change of scene, I implored Heaven to be my guide. Hibernian assurance was my passport. As soon as we had scrambled to the shore, the dragoons took me to their fire, where I dried myself as well as the time would permit; and as they considered

sidered me as lying under an obligation for the service I had just received from them, they did not scruple to demand a reward.—Happening to have some Prussian silver coin in my pocket, to the amount of about a guinea, which was current in the English camp, but of little value in that of the French, I distributed it among them, and they seemed satisfied.

By this time a Captain of patrol came up ; who being informed of my situation, directed me to mount behind one of the dragoons, in order to conduct me to the main-guard. I was thus carried about upwards of two hours ; and then delivered to the charge of Viscomte Cottesquet, a nobleman of Brittany, and a Captain in the Queen's dragoons. From him I experienced more politeness than I had hitherto ; for, ordering his servant to alight, and get up behind one of the dragoons, he desired me to mount his horse, and about one o'clock in the morning we arrived at head-quarters, where I was immediately carried
before

before the French General, the Prince Sou-
bize.

In my way to his apartments, a scene pre-
sented itself which would have startled any
youth as I was at that time, and which made
me betray my ignorance of the world, and of
the customs of a camp. Though the recol-
lection of my simplicity raises a blush on my
cheek, I must make you acquainted with it,
that it may excite a smile on your's.

As I passed through the lobby, and as-
cended the stair-case, I could not help taking
notice, that a great number of the principal
officers, as they appeared to be by the ribbands
and crosses with which they were decorated, lay
snoreing in every part around, on beds of straw
very thinly scattered. I was so struck with
the novelty of this sight, that when I was
introduced to the Prince and the Duke de
Rohan his son, I very simply said, "The
French nobility lie exactly in the same man-
ner as horses do in my country." You may

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be assured the French Generals and their attendants smiled, but their natural politeness made them pass it over.

Indeed, the Prince de Soubize behaved to me with the greatest condescension and affability. His Highness appeared to be about fifty, of a fine open countenance, polite, and even facetious, and free from that ostentatious parade and reserve, which is too often annexed to his dignity. His son, the Duke de Rohan, was a handsome, lively young fellow, about twenty-two, equally polite and condescending with his father.

When I entered the room where the Prince and his son were, I was interrogated by several who could speak English, relative to the state and situation of the allied army. They seemed particularly anxious to know in what columns the ovens, bread, and flour were transported. I need not tell you, that information on this head is the first enquiry of hostile armies to deserters; but notwithstanding

ing I had seen the waggons, containing the bread, &c. move off but two days before, my honour would not suffer me to give them any intelligence that could prove of service to them.

I had not been long in the room, before a Colonel Stewart arrived; who, shaking me by the hand with great seeming cordiality, asked me in English my name.—Upon my telling it, he instantly embracing me called me Cousin; adding, that I should partake of his fortune; and that as he was then raising a regiment of his and my countrymen, for the service of France, to be called *the Royal Irlandois*, he would give me the first lieutenancy in it.

This friendly offer of my countryman pleased me, though I did not intend to accept it. But these cordial professions, and his claim of kindred, were only intended as a bait to gain from me what intelligence he could relative to the English army. In this,

however, he succeeded no better than his companions.

Nothing more passed at this time ; and when I retired, the Duke told me, with great affability, not to be in the least uneasy, as he had given orders that I should be supplied with as good wine and provisions as he himself was served with.

It being now near morning, I was directed to return to the care of Viscomte Cottetquet, who took me to a little cabbin, where he ordered his servant to make a fire, and give me one of his shirts to change my linen. And I found myself much refreshed when I had disencumbered myself from the load of drapery which I had put on the day before.

The next morning I underwent another examination before the Prince, much to the same purpose as that of the preceding night. I was now asked by his Highness, whether I would enter into the French service ; and he offered

offered me a cornetcy in Captain Cottetquet's troop.

But this offer I declined, telling the Prince, at the same time, that my motive for so doing was an inclination I had long entertained of joining the Austrian army, in which there were several officers to whom I had the honor to be related. As the Austrians then were in alliance with the French, the Prince was pleased to approve of my plan, and promised to give me, in a few days, a pass to Francfort.

The same day the French army decamped, in order to watch the motions of the Allies; and after several movements, arrived in about seven days at Friedberg; which was within five leagues of Francfort. Here both armies encamped in sight of each other; and remained inactive for some time.

I now intended to claim the General's promise; but was seized with a dysentery,

from lying on the cold wet ground; the country through which we marched, not being able to furnish the camp with straw enough, to secure the men from the effects of the weather. As soon as I was sufficiently recovered, the Prince furnished me with a pass, and a letter of recommendation to Colonel Castilan, the commanding officer of the recruiting parties from the Austrian grand army at Francfort; and on my departure his Highness very politely made me a present of five louis d'ors towards defraying my expences.

As I have now reached Germany, and am about to enter into that service, which had so long been the object of my wishes, I will here put an end to my letter, by assuring you that I am,

Your's, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN

LET.

L E T T E R IV.

October 17th, 1785.

ON my arrival at Francfort, I waited upon the Colonel, from whom I met with a reception equal to my most sanguine hope—and I now professed myself a volunteer in the Austrian service.—As I staid here but a few days, I can give you no further description of that city at this distance of time; only, that it is a very agreeable place; the situation of it being pleasant, and the buildings handsome. I was ordered into quarters at the village of Seckbach, about four miles distant, as that was the general rendezvous of the recruiting parties.

Here I continued about a month; in which time, I attained a tolerable proficiency in the German language, as I lodged in the house of a boor, where nothing else was

B 6

spoken.

spoken.—During my residence in this family, which consisted of an old man, his wife, and a maiden sister who was about fifty years of age, toothless, and ordinary in the extreme, the following whimsical adventure happened to me.

One day as I was going up stairs, when the old man and woman were in the fields at harvest work, I found the sister employed in drying walnuts, of which their trees had just produced a large crop.——As I seized every opportunity of speaking the language, in order to be improved in it, I fell into chat with this antiquated virgin; who, during the conversation, told me in a jocular manner, that she had never in her whole life had an offer of marriage, nor had ever been kissed by a man, since the death of her uncle, which happened about the *tenth* year of her age.

Such a declaration as this, could not fail of putting an Hibernian upon his metal—I accordingly

accordingly laid hold of her, and endeavoured to imprint a kiss on her hitherto unpolluted lips.—But, notwithstanding she had just before complained of the hardness of her fate, an involuntary maiden coyness prompted her to repel my attack; and, in our struggles, down we fell on the dried walnuts, which covered the floor of the room, nearly two feet deep.

The door being situated near the head of the stairs, our amorous contention set the walnuts in motion, and down they rolled in large quantities, till they reached the street through the street door which stood open.

The neighbours surprized at such an unusual torrent issuing from the cottage, gathered round, to enquire into the cause of it.—By this time, my Dulcinea and myself, equally alarmed by the clattering of the nuts, got down stairs, where she informed the spectators of our disaster; who, after having laughed heartily at the adventure, went away, and

and left me and my companion to collect the scattered walnuts at our leisure.

Nor did the good lady appear to be in the least offended with the liberties I had taken—For when I was about to leave Seckbach, she seemed to lament my departure; as she said in an expressive manner, she was sorry I was going, as now she should be obliged to *crack walnuts* alone.

In a few weeks, our recruits amounting to upwards of three hundred, we marched to join another party, which lay at Aschaffenburg.—As we were about to set off, Colonel Castellan advanced me to the amount of about five pounds sterling, for which he desired I would give him a receipt, telling me, at the same time, that it would be as much as I should have occasion for, till I joined the army.

And indeed it proved to be more.—For, as I had an officer's billet wherever we stopped, I partook of every luxury the Holy Roman

Roman Empire produced; of which I assure you, nature does not supply the inhabitants with a sparing hand; all kinds of wine and provisions being, in most parts of it, in the greatest profusion. And as our route lay chiefly through these provinces which belonged to allies, and frequently through the estates of noblemen serving in the Austrian army, we were entertained with the greatest hospitality.

It is customary in this country, for the commanding officer to pay a kreutzer per head, about a halfpenny English, for straw, at every halting place, which the inhabitants are obliged to furnish at that price; but if the soldiers behave well, they are generally furnished with provisions and every necessary, gratis.

As for the officers, they are generally entertained by the people of the towns and villages through which they pass, and their company esteemed an honour.—This being the case, I need not say that I was pleased with
having

having thus far carried my plan of joining the Austrians into execution.—After an agreeable march, we at length reached Prague, the capital of Bohemia.

Here I quitted the recruits, who went into barracks, and repaired to a convent of Irish Franciscans, in the new city,—where the whole fraternity received me with the greatest cordiality, as soon as I had mentioned my name; several friars, as I had supposed, knowing my family, and others being allied to it.—I was comfortably lodged in one of the apartments appropriated in this, as in most other convents, to the use of strangers; and I always found a table plentifully spread in the refectory.

Marshal Brown, whose valour and military achievements are too well known to need a recapitulation here, being a native of Ireland, was a great friend to this convent; and after his death, which happened in consequence of
the

the wounds he received at the battle of Prague, was interred in the cemetery belonging to it.

Whilst I lived here at my ease, Father M'Ginnis, one of the principal friars, went of his own accord, to Lieutenant-general Count John O'Donnel, to inform him of my arrival, who resided at Kuttemberg, to which place he had retired for some years, being invalided on account of the wounds he had received in the service of the House of Austria.

My new friend, the friar, prepossessed in my favour, informed the General, that a very promising youth was at their convent, who had lately arrived from Ireland, and was the son of his aunt Mary O'Donnel; he added, that I was the exact picture of his brother, the general of horse at that time, commander in chief of the Austrian army, which lay at Glatz; and to confirm this assertion, my zealous and holy friend gave such a description of my flaxen hair, blue eyes, and aquiline nose,

nose, as seemed to remove every doubt of my being nearly related to him.—This resemblance to the elder general, which the good father made so perfectly out, let me tell you, was paying me no little compliment, as he was reckoned one of the handsomest men in Germany.

But the friar was mistaken in the consanguinity—For though I was related to the two generals, it was not in that degree he mentioned, as my father had married a first cousin of his own, whose maiden name was likewise M'Gauran.

On my first arrival at Prague, I had given out, with truth, that I was a grandson of Colonel Bryan M'Gauran, who had followed the fortunes of James King of England, and served in his army—and as Hugh, the son of Captain Daniel M'Gauran, my great uncle, had married the lady first mentioned, my cousin, his son, was consequently cousin-german to the two Generals, and had always reported

reported himself to be a grandson of Colonel *Bryan M'Gauran*, in order to give himself the greater consequence; it was therefore concluded that I was this gentleman's brother.—He had early in life entered into the Austrian service, in which he had attained the rank of Captain; but having been taken prisoner by the Prussians, was at that time at Magdeburg.

Knowing that I was nearly allied to the two Generals, though not the son of their aunt, I did not give myself the trouble to contradict the supposition. Indeed my vanity prompted me to think, that a youth like me, who had left his native country, and travelled so many miles to face the Prussians, for the poor pittance of two-pence halfpenny and two pounds of black bread a-day, (which was the allowance of a German soldier in camp) need not undergo a very strict examination concerning his mother; whose name or birth, be it ever so exalted, could not
screen

screen him from the enemies' bullets. The interference of the friendly monk, procured me the General's notice, who sent orders that I should be properly equipped and join the regiment of Anger, then in Silesia with the grand army, of which Henry Count O'Donnel, another branch of the O'Donnel family was Lieutenant-Colonel.

Before I proceed any further, it will be necessary to give you some account of these two Generals, to whom I have the honour to be allied.—But as two such able commanders claim all the respect I can show them, I shall begin another letter with the subject, and here subscribe myself,

Your's, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

L E T.

LETTER V.

October 20th, 1785.

Lieutenant General John O'Donnel, of whom I have just been writing, and his elder brother Connel, General of horse, and at that time next in command to Marshal Daun, are the sons of Hugh Earl O'Donnel, descended from the Earl of Tyrconnel, who was one of those Irish noblemen that forfeited their titles and estates, at the time my ancestor did, as already related.

They both, whilst young, entered into the Austrian service, under the auspices of their uncle, General Hamilton, who had rendered himself famous in Hungary against the Turks. Through his interest, the eldest, Count Connel, was appointed page to her Majesty the late Empress. After some time, the General procured for him a troop of horse, and for his younger a lieutenancy—
and

and in the wars in Italy they both behaved so well, that they obtained higher promotion.

Count Connel, who was remarkably handsome, was, as most of his countrymen naturally are, of an amorous disposition; which had like to have proved detrimental to the advancement of his fortune; for being dispatched by the General of the Austrian army in Italy to Vienna, with the news of a victory gained there, the young Count, unfortunately on the road, fell in with a lady of his acquaintance, to whom and Love he devoted more time than the important dispatches he carried with him would allow. The consequence was, that to his great mortification, a second courier arrived at the capital before him.

When the Count appeared before the Empress, he endeavoured to excuse his delay, by saying, he had lost his road in the night. Luckily for him, his royal mistress

had

had received from the General, with the news of the battle, the highest encomiums of the gallant behaviour of the Count during it. She, therefore, only jocosely said, "I know you *went astray* in the night, but I will take care to prevent your doing so in future."

This her Majesty accordingly did; and by detaining the wanderer (who from henceforward became a favourite) at Court, till her orders, which were, that the lady should retire into a convent during the war, were executed.

When General Hamilton died, he left his fortune, which amounted to about ten thousand pounds sterling, to his two nephews, making the eldest the administrator to his will. But I believe that what Count John received of it, fell very short of what he was entitled to. His brother Connel was too fond of parade and ostentation to be able to part with much of it.

Count

Count Connel likewise possessed so much pride, that he would not give precedence to the first Prince in Germany, unless compelled to it by the military etiquette. His appearance was majestic ; and he was esteemed the finest person, and best bred man, at the Court of Vienna. The fair sex engrossed much of his attention ; for though his religion was that of a true Catholic, Venus, Bacchus, and Mars, were by turns the objects of his worship.

He had frequently been offered the staff of Field Marshal, but as often declined it.—What his motives were for doing so, I will not pretend to say.—It is, however, well known, that he had more influence at the Austrian court than any other Irishman, notwithstanding which, he seldom interested himself in the promotion of his countrymen.—Whilst on the contrary, his brother, Count John, was as much devoted to their affairs as to his own.

As in a preceding letter, I just touched upon the reasons why so many of my countrymen formerly expatriated, and displayed their heroism at the head of foreign armies, I beg leave to resume the subject here.

The oppressions heaped upon the Roman Catholics of Ireland, for near two centuries, on account of their religious principles, have been extreme; and such as I believe are known but to a few of the English themselves.

Among many other hardships they have laboured under, during that period, I shall just mention the following:—If the younger son of a Catholic family abjured his religion, and turned Protestant, he had it in his power to eject his elder brother from the family estate, and take possession of it: nor had the real heir any redress. If the Papists, as they are styled, had in their houses fire-arms, or any other offensive weapons, though to defend their persons and property, it was

considered as high treason. No Roman Catholic nobleman, be his estate or fortune ever so great, was permitted to drive six horses to his carriage; and if a person of that persuasion was possessed of a horse worth upwards of five pounds, any Protestant was empowered by the laws to take it from the owner, on paying him that sum.

These are a part of the grievous laws by which the Irish Roman Catholics were till lately oppressed. And they were frequently enforced, with a strictness adequate to their severity, by a set of illiterate Protestant magistrates, who scarcely could read, and much less understand the statutes under which they acted. I myself knew no less than three of these worthy magistrates in the neighbourhood of my native place, who could not write even their names legibly. Nor were there ever wanting those, among every rank, who made the restrictions laid on the Catholics, a pretext for robbing and plundering them.

Is it then to be wondered at, that every Catholic whose spirit could not brook such intolerable oppression, and who was not kept at home by irrefragable ties, should fly for refuge to other countries ! Many, very many, in each reign, during the period mentioned, have done so ; and by their military talents contributed not a little to the aggrandisement of that country in whose service they happened to engage.

But now, thank Heaven ! the æra seems to be arrived, in which my native country shall emerge from the depressed state it has so long been sunk in, and raise its head to a level with the neighbouring nations. The persecutions before recited are at an end ; the prejudices formerly subsisting, hourly abate ; a liberality of sentiment has spread itself throughout the kingdom, and put a stop to those religious animosities which for two centuries have been mutually destructive.

As I am upon this subject, I will enume-

rate a few of those great men born in Ireland, who quitted their native country on account of the religious persecutions just recited ; or of Irish descent, who served with the highest reputation in the Austrian armies, near the period I entered that service.

To Marshal Count Brown, and the two Generals O'Donnel, just mentioned, may be added Count M'Guire, a descendant of the very illustrious rebel M'Guire, Baron of Inniskillen, who was attainted with the Irish barons before spoken of.—The Count rendered himself famous by nobly defending Dresden against the King of Prussia.

Another of these, is Field Marshal Count Lacy, who is the favourite of the present Emperor.—The military knowledge, and the judicious evolutions of this great man, enabled him to evade the combined armies of Prussia, though commanded by the King in person, and his brother Prince Henry, two of the greatest generals of the age, at the head
of

of a much superior force.—The Marshal, notwithstanding he was almost surrounded, so dexterously managed his retreat, that he not only saved his army and baggage, but by a forced march, laid the city of Berlin under contribution, and bore away the spoil before the Prussian troops could come up with him.

Besides the above, were the Generals O'Kelly, Butler, Plunket, M'Kellicut, and Kavanagh, who were in the same service, though I had not the honour of being personally acquainted with them; and General D'Alton, who was deemed an officer of great skill and genius was likewise from Ireland.

Old General Kavanagh accumulated a fortune of more than 30,000 pounds sterling in this service; and in the disposal of which at his death, he formed a singular resolution.—He had three daughters, between whom he equally divided his fortune, on condition that they all should marry persons of the name of

Kavanagh; whichever failed of doing this, was to forfeit her share to those who did.

But when the General thus bequeathed his effects, he well knew that there were enough of his name, from among whom the young ladies might chuse themselves agreeable and deserving husbands.—By this step the old veteran planted a colony of his own, which bids fair to perpetuate his name in the kingdom of Bohemia.

The other Irish officers of note in the Austrian armies, were General Count Nugent, and his brothers Colonel and Captain Nugent,—the first was many years ambassador from the court of Vienna to that of Berlin, where, by his eloquence and abilities, he had gained the esteem of the Prussian monarch.—The gallant Colonel Hume Caldwell (brother to Sir James Caldwell of Ballishannon, Count of the Holy Roman Empire, and formerly a General in the Imperial service) who gloriously fell in one of the repeated sallies
he

he made out of Schweidnitz in Silesia, when besieged by the Prussians, covered with laurels, acquired by his valour.—On this occasion the late Empress Queen wrote a letter of condolence to his mother, the dowager Lady Caldwell, accompanied with a very rich snuff-box, on one side of which was represented her Imperial Majesty in mourning, and on the other, Hibernia weeping the loss of her son, and playing a solemn funeral dirge on the harp.

To these may be added several distinguished officers of the O'Byrnes and O'Reillys.

—Though my Colonel, now Field Marshal Loudon, is not my countrymen, yet as he has rendered himself so famous, a short account of this great man may not prove unentertaining to you.

General Loudon was born in Livonia, a Province of Russia, as was his father; who, notwithstanding his parent was from Scotland,

land, and of the Loudon family, to adapt his name to the language of the country in which he resided, wrote it Laudohn.—This mode the present General pursued, till General Lockhart, an officer also in the Austrian army, not long ago, procured his pedigree from Scotland, when finding the mistake, he has ever since made use of the ancient name of his family.

In his youth, the Marshal entered into the Russian service; where he obtained a lieutenant's commission.—But not having here a prospect of promotion equal to his wishes, he quitted it, and went to Berlin to solicit employment from the Prussian monarch.—Here also he found his hopes disappointed,—the King of Prussia wished to retain in his service those only who enjoyed the advantages of a good person.—Loudon besides being like his Majesty, low in stature, was ill made, and his countenance rather forbidding.—He was accordingly obliged to seek advancement elsewhere.

His

His next application was to the court of Vienna; where, the same objection not existing, he obtained a lieutenancy of Croats.— This proved the first step towards his fortune;—for, although the King of Prussia had disliked his person, he found favour in the sight of a noble Hungarian Lady, whom he married; and by whose interest he was soon after raised to be a Major of Croats.

With this rank he came into the field, in the war between the Empress Queen and the King of Prussia, whom he so harrassed with his corps, upon every occasion, and so frequently beat up his quarters, that he was more dreaded by the Prussian Monarch, than even Marshal Daun, at the head of his formidable army.

He again signalized himself at the memorable battle of Francfort on the Oder;—and also by the gallant attack he made upon Schweidnitz in Silesia; which he carried by a *coup de main* in the night, notwithstanding

the fortress was exceeding strong, and the Prussian garrison, which he made prisoners of war, much superior in numbers to his own troops.

As a reward for these services, his royal mistress purchased for him an estate near Kutenberg in Bohemia, where he now resides as commander in chief.

Having nearly tired you, I fear, with this long account of the Austrian generals, I shall change the subject, and entertain you with a ludicrous scene to which I was witness while I resided at Prague—as it may tend to make you chearful, and irradiate the gloom of indisposition, during your confinement.

But not to mingle grave subjects with gay, I shall reserve my story till I write again. In the mean time, adieu.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

L E T T E R VI.

London, October 26th, 1785.

IN the city of Prague lived Count M'Neven, an Irishman, who having by his success as a physician, acquired some fame, and a handsome fortune, purchased the title of Count of the Holy Roman Empire.

It happened during the time I resided there, that by permission of the magistrates, the body of a poor woman was to be publicly dissected. — A great number of people assembled to see the operation. — But as the body afterwards was to receive Christian burial, and no one seemed inclined to contribute towards so pious a deed, Doctor M'Neven thus addressed the company — “ As I plainly see, gentlemen, none
“ of the company chuses to be at the expence
“ of burying this poor woman, I have a pro-
“ posal to make; which is, that I will un-
“ dertake to do it myself, if every one pre-
“ sent agrees, that whoever laughs during

“ the operation, shall forfeit a *groshen* ;” (value about three half-pence).

As the ripping up an old woman did not seem to promise any very laughable incident, the Doctor's offer met with universal approbation ; and the doors of the hall were ordered to be shut, to prevent any that should happen to incur the forfeiture, from making off without paying.

The Count Doctor then stepped up to the body, which lay ready for dissection, and taking up a knife, with the dexterity of a Mohawk chief, cut off the woman's —, and applying it to his face in the manner of a masque, and in such a position that his nose came through the orifice, he humorously bowed to all around him.

In an instant the risible muscles of every one present were in motion, and they all burst out into such violent fits of laughter, as were scarcely ever equalled ; hats were immediately

mediately handed about, which were soon filled; and the humorous exhibition being several times repeated, upwards of thirty pounds were collected.

Close by me stood a very pretty youth, whom from his appearance, I took to be a nobleman. Every time the wonderful masque was displayed he seemed greatly agitated, and laid hold of my arm to support his delicate frame.

This exciting my curiosity, when the exhibition was over, I invited him to partake of a bottle of wine; but he seeming to decline my invitation, I took him by the hand, and led him to an adjacent tavern.

After we had drank a few glasses, I took the liberty to ask him concerning his family, intimating that I concluded it to be noble, and should esteem it an honour to become acquainted with him; to this my young companion replied, that he was not a person of rank,

rank, nor worthy of my attention. I then enquired of him, whether he was a gentleman, or the son of a reputable tradesman; to which he likewise replied in the negative, and seemed willing to depart.

Enraged at the thought of having associated myself with some mean plebeian, by which my dignity was hurt, in the impetuosity of youth, I instantly arose, and drawing my sword, bid him do the same, or tell me who and what he was. But how great was my surprize, when the young hero fell on his knees, and begged me to spare his life. The object of my resentment then confessed, that she was a girl, the daughter of a Jew merchant that lived in Prague:

Not in the least displeased to find that my new companion was of the softer sex, I put up my sword, and we again sat down to the bottle. She then continued to inform me, that having got leave of her parents to make a holiday, she had disguised herself, in order

to gratify her curiosity with a sight of the dissection; but that now she was sorry she had done so, as she did not like the performance, for Count M'Neven was a very nasty man.

By this time growing pleased with each others company, I ordered dinner; in short, we not only dined, but supped together, and as I was not obliged to sleep at the convent, I determined to enjoy, without abatement, the frolick my good fortune had thrown in my way.

After supper, my pretty Israelite complain-
ing that she was uneasy in her small cloaths;
as they did not usually constitute part of her
attire, I undressed her, and wrapped her in
my furtout; at length tired nature calling for
repose, I laid her in bed, where the wine she
had drank soon lulled her into a truly Chris-
tian slumber. It being now late, I was un-
der the necessity of reposing in the same bed,
Here then will I draw the curtain;

The

64 M E M O I R S O F

The next morning my companion went home; and when I had soon after the pleasure of seeing her in a dress suitable to her sex, I found her more elegant in her appearance, and more lovely in her person, than any girl I had seen since I had entered the German empire. I daily visited her during my stay at Prague; and she growing tired of wearing a yellow cuff, which all the Jews in Bohemia are obliged to do, she attended me without the knowledge of her parents to the convent where I resided, and was there baptized.

The day after, having procured several kinds of merchandize to sell at Glatz, she set out for that place under my protection; and though she was but sixteen years of age when she arrived there, she opened a shop and managed it with so much dexterity, that even during my stay she amassed a very considerable sum; for this success, however, she was in a great measure indebted to the corps to which I belonged, as every officer in it wished to become the object of her choice, little thinking she was already provided.

When

When I left that place, she would most willingly have accompanied me, but was prevented by my colonel; the power of a commanding officer in the Austrian dominions being much more despotic than that of an English officer, as he can even prevent a married woman from following the regiment if he chuses. I own I felt some regret at parting from the little rogue. But with a soldier, these casual impressions are not usually very lasting.

Your's, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

LET.

LETTER VII.

London, November 1st, 1785.

I HOPE, Colonel, that my last letter answered the purpose intended; if it did, and I have beguiled your pains, but for a few minutes, I shall be happy; as to the subsequent part of the story, my accidental frolic with the pretty Gergashite, I shall only say in the words of the song,

“ Had you been in my place,

“ You would have done the same.”

And now I will endeavour to entertain you with a short description of the capital of Bohemia.

There are few cities in Europe that equal Prague in magnitude and grandeur. It contains many noble palaces, and handsome squares, in which are fountains; the bridge is esteemed a magnificent building; the principal

cipal part of its trade is carried on by the
 Jews, who reside in a quarter of the city ap-
 propriated to them, and called for that reason
Judenstadt, or the Jews' city. They have
 many privileges, but both sexes are obliged
 to wear yellow cuffs to distinguish them from
 the Christians. Prague has no suburbs, the
 whole being inclosed by a very strong wall
 and ramparts, upwards of six miles in cir-
 cumference.

In the refectory of the convent where I
 resided, a cannon ball, apparently a forty-
 two pounder, is lodged in the wall; which
 the King of Prussia sent the reverend fathers
 as a present from the muzzle of one of his
 great guns, during the siege, as provisions
 were very scarce.

In St. John's Church in this city, a large
 marble pillar, between twenty and thirty
 feet long, lies upon the ground, broken into
 three different pieces, of which there is the
 following tradition.—A priest at Rome had
 entered into a compact with the devil, by
 which

which he agreed to become his bondsman, on condition that his infernal highness would by way of displaying his power, convey one of the massive pillars from St. Paul's church in that city, to St. John's church at Prague, and return to Rome during the time he was saying mass. Why St. John's church at Prague was fixed upon by the priest is not said, but it may be supposed he was from that city.

Satan agreed to the terms, and taking up the pillar, flew with it to the place appointed, but finding when he got there, that he had not a moment to spare ; instead of placing the pillar upon its end, and fixing it so as to become an ornament to the church, he threw down his load, which broke into three pieces, and hastened back to Rome.

But his utmost speed would not avail ; for as he entered the church, where he had left the priest at his prayers, he heard him utter, *Ite, missa est*, the mass is said. Thus did the crafty priest outwit the devil.

This

This legendary tale I have given you, just as I received it, when viewing St. John's church, which from its singularity I thought might prove entertaining; with regard to its credibility, I leave that to yourself; adding only, that I really saw the pillar laying in the state described; which from its enormous size one would imagine the devil only could have brought there. That there is no pillar of similar stone or proportions in Bohemia is certain, so that it must be *exotic*; and it is well known that a pillar is really wanting in St. Paul's church on the spot where this was said to be situated. But to return to the sequel of my story.

When I arrived at Glatz, the Austrian troops were quartered in that place and its neighbourhood, and the nearest posts of those of the Prussians were at Frankenstein. During the course of the preceding campaign, Schweidnitz, after having cost his Prussian Majesty a deal of time, and a proportionate number of men, had surrendered to him and the brave garrison, were made prisoners of war; but the ill fortune of these gallant men did not

not end here; the principal part of them being drowned at the mouth of the Oder, on their passage to their intended confinement at Königsberg.

The King of Prussia having thus succeeded in Silesia, turned his attention to Saxony, where he considerably reinforced the army of Prince Henry, and made preparations which indicated a design of laying siege to Dresden. The Imperialists opposed them with great spirit. At length a battle was fought at Freyberg, to their disadvantage; in which they lost a great number of men together with several cannon.

The Austrians soon after were so imprudent as to consent to a partial cessation of hostilities for Silesia and Electoral Saxony, not foreseeing the danger the other parts of the empire would be exposed to; which, as they were left unprotected, the Prussians accordingly laid under contributions.

Several of the German states however, having

ing been included in the treaty of peace which had just been signed between Great Britain and France, conferences were opened at Hubersburg, and a treaty concluded between the King of Prussia, and the Empress Queen; which rendered the peace general. As my arrival at Glatz happened to be but a short time before this event took place, I found the armies in a state of inactivity, which was not again interrupted.

I was now enrolled a *cadet* in the regiment of Anger, and allowed a ducat per month over and above the pay of a private, as an acknowledgement of my being in a superior station.

I know not for what reason, but my Colonel did not introduce me to General Connel O'Donnel, as I could have wished; notwithstanding I was equipped for his regiment, and recommended by Count John. An accident, however, soon procured me the honour of his acquaintance.—Colonel O'Donnel only directed me to employ the whole of my

my attention in the attainment of the military discipline, and in perfecting myself in the German language, which I did with such assiduity and success, as to receive his approbation.

It is an etiquette in the Imperial service, that every one who enters into it, not excepting those of the first families, must go through the different gradations of regimental rank, beginning with that of a private, during this initiation they are styled cadets.—And it is not unusual to see a Count or a Prince standing sentry ; but when off duty, they are allowed to mingle with the officers ; and are admitted at balls, assemblies, and every genteel amusement.

Were I to enter into a minute account of the military discipline of the Germans, it would of itself make several volumes ; and as any abridgment would give but an imperfect idea of it, I shall only say, that it is blended with much pomp and parade, and is enforced with the greatest strictness.

The

The following accident happened while at Glatz. I was invited to go, in company with several Irish officers, to dine with Captain O'Reilly, in cantonments, about three miles from the town; and seeing a dead horse on the road, I went to it, drew my sabre, and cut some slices to feed our greyhounds; my comrades, who were some distance before me, in vain called several times to prevent me. In this part of Germany, no clean person, as they term it, is to touch any beast that dies by accident; as the hide and carcase of such being deemed carrion, they become the hangman's perquisites, as he is deemed unclean, and forbid the society of any other set of men but those of his own profession. Men of this kind, when chosen, are obliged to enter into a circle of people assembled for that purpose, crawling on four feet like a beast, and in that position receive their warrant, and then depart in the like manner, amidst the groans and hisses of the congregation: a party of the military always attends to protect him from the mob on the

day of his election; however, during this employ he is denied the benefit of clergy. This office is held so odious, that they are sometimes obliged to seek for a candidate amongst the felons that are condemned to die; and it is said that some of those even despised a pardon on such terms.

I left my sabre on the spot, by my companion's orders, and hastened towards them; but, to my great chagrin, was only permitted to follow at a distance. And I had the further mortification, on our arrival at O'Reilly's quarters, to be obliged to dine at a separate table.

I believe my countrymen would have passed over my imprudence, and have thought nothing of the contamination, had not a burgher, who passed by at the time, been witness to my disgrace; and as soon as he reached the city, circulated the news.

Anxious to return to society as soon as possible, the very next day I made proper application

cation, in order to be restored to my former
 purity. The Bishop attending for this pur-
 pose, I was placed on my knees before the
 grand altar in the cathedral, where, after he
 washed and anointed my hands, and perfum-
 ed me with incense, he concluded the cere-
 mony, with bidding me to rise, as *I was now*
cleansed from filth and sin. Thus ended my
 misadventure ; and ever after I was careful
 how I even approached a carcase.

And as, perhaps, I may never be able to
 subscribe myself, in so pure and unpolluted
 state, your friend and servant, I will here,
 my dear Colonel do it.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

D 2

LET.

L E T T E R V I I I .

October 30, 1785.

CHristmas now approached, and the winter setting in with severity, the ground was soon covered with snow; the winter diversions of course took place, which consisted of balls, masquerades, and a recreation to which I had hitherto been a stranger, that is, driving on the ice in sledges.

The bodies of these vehicles are of different shapes, such as swans, griffins, shells, &c. each of them is drawn by one horse, decorated with plumes of feathers, ribbons, and bells. In the sledge sits the lady, generally dressed in her best apparel, which, in the season, mostly consists of velvet, lined with rich furs: at that period they usually wear on their heads a velvet cap, ornamented with jewels; but the fashion may have altered

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since ; though I rather think it has not, as the inhabitants of this part of Germany are about a century behind the natives of France and other nations in this respect.

Behind the seat of the sledge a gentleman stands, who guides the horse ; and, as this diversion is commonly taken in the night, running-footmen and grooms precede the carriage with torches, the light of which, reflected from the ice or snow, throws a cheerfulness and gaiety around, that counterbalance the severity of the weather. I assure you nothing can exceed the brilliancy of such a scene, and it afforded me peculiar satisfaction.

During this sportive season, General Count O'Donnel gave a ball and supper once a week, of which, as cadet, I had the honour to partake.

One night the beverage we call punch was mentioned ; and as no one among the company cared to acknowledge himself a

good hand at making it, I undertook the operation, and succeeded so well, that I gained universal applause.

In particular Madam Rupin, one of the General's favourites, was so charmed with it, and enlivened by its exhilarating powers, that she declared she had never in her life drank such grateful liquor; and finding, on enquiry, that I was related to the Count, immediately presented me to him as his cousin.

The General received me with great affability, shook me by the hand, and asked why my Colonel had not introduced me to him. From this time I was honoured with his notice, and had free access to his table, and the happiness to continue in his good graces during my stay at Glatz.

On the 23d of February, 1763, peace was proclaimed between the King of Prussia and the Empress Queen. The basis of the treaty was, that a mutual restitution should take place

place, and each party be put in the same situation in which they were before the war; accordingly the Austrian troops marched out of Glatz, and were succeeded by those of Prussia.

On this occasion a circumstance happened, which, young as I was, made a deep impression on my mind, and first gave me an idea of those elevated sentiments by which the military are, or ought to be, actuated.

When we evacuated Glatz, we marched into cantonments in the neighbouring villages; the distance being so small, we received an invitation from the Prussian officers to spend the evening with them; which being accepted by the greatest part of our officers, we returned to the town, where we passed the night with our late foes in the greatest cheerfulness and festivity; and with a degree of harmony that was scarcely to be expected between persons, who, but a few

days before, breathed nothing but destruction to each other.

You would have been charmed, had you heard with what impartiality the veterans of both armies related the particulars of the different actions they had been engaged in; and talked over the various events of their campaigns, bestowing praise indiscriminately on either side, when justice required it.

Whilst some were enjoying such delightful conversation, others joined the dance, or regaled themselves with the bottle; and it was not till Aurora had made her appearance that we parted, and bid a long adieu to each other.

In a few days our army separated, and the several regiments marched to the marked quarters appointed for them.

I could not help observing that the peace did not in general seem to please the officers

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whose hopes of advancement were thereby retarded ; besides, they had been so long habituated to each other's company, and so inured to their late mode of living, that I believe most of them would have had no dislike to the continuance of the war.

The regiment to which I belonged was ordered to Nieumarc, in the kingdom of Bohemia. I was not displeased at this destination, as it was near Kuttemburg, the residence of my much respected and honoured friend General John O'Donnel, by whose kindness I had been recommended to, and equipped for the station in which I now was.

As soon as I made myself personally known to the Count, he received me with great politeness, and gave me a general invitation to his table ; a happiness I enjoyed about two months ; at the expiration of which time the regiment was ordered into Hungary.

We therefore marched to Lintz, in Upper Austria, from whence there was an easy conveyance

veyance to the place of our destination by the Danube.

This river, after running through Swabia and Bavaria, passes through Vienna, the capital of Austria; from thence it divides the kingdom of Hungary into two parts; and and having made its way through Turkey, falls into the Euxine, or Black Sea, by several channels. The channel of it from Vienna to Belgrade is so wide and so deep, that fleets of men of war have found room to engage upon it, during some of the wars which took place, the beginning of this century, between the Christians and the Turks.

When we arrived at Lintz, we embarked on rafts, which had neither masts nor sails, but were carried down by the rapid current of the river at the rate of five miles an hour.

We went on shore every night to some village or town on the banks, where we were

com-

comfortably lodged and entertained with the best wines, and a profusion of all the delicacies the country could afford.

In a part of the Danube which runs thro' Upper Austria, there is a high rock, on the top of which is placed a large wooden crucifix, and near the bottom of it runs a dangerous whirlpool, or, as the natives call it, a *Wirbel*.

It is customary with the watermen, when they come to this spot, to fall prostrate before the crucifix, and pray for a safe deliverance from the danger, instead of using every exertion to extricate themselves from it.

Struck with the impropriety of such a proceeding, as soon as we reached the place, instead of distrusting Providence, and kneeling down to pray, I assumed an air of uncommon cheerfulness, obliged the men belonging to the raft in which I was to row with all their

might, and ordered the drums to beat the Grenadiers' March.

In this manner we passed all the rest of the rafts, on which the watermen were at their devotions, and quickly got through the dangerous passage. My conduct, however, did not escape censure ; I was considered as a reprobate for being jocular during the time of prayer and danger.

But we had no sooner reached a smother part of the river, than I did what I had been condemned for not doing—I ordered the drum to *beat the Prayer*, as it is termed, which was an additional surprize to the rest of the corps. And when, upon going ashore, I was interrogated by the officers why I had acted so strangely, I freely told them I was of opinion that exertions in time of peril, and thanks for our preservation after it is over, prove more acceptable to Heaven than any supplications we may offer up, if they prevent these necessary efforts.

I must

I must not omit telling you here, that it is a custom among the German troops to beat what they term the *Betsundt*, or call to prayer, four times a day, viz. about day-break, at mid-day, at sun-set, and at mid-night, when the troops that are on duty say a short prayer under arms, for which an interval is allowed by the drum.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

LET.

L E T T E R IX.

London, November 6, 1785.

WHEN we arrived at Vienna, I received orders to remain there. This unexpected interruption to my voyage was occasioned by Count O'Donnel, who on being appointed Colonel of Plunket's regiment of foot, had obtained permission for me to serve in the same corps.—This new arrangement was not in the least displeasing to me, and I returned the Count my most grateful acknowledgments.

I was obliged to wait some time at the capital after I had joined a battalion of that regiment, which was just arrived from Stiria, till it was ordered to follow the regiment which had taken the rout to Luxemburg.

During my stay at Vienna, I was ordered on duty, for a few days, to Schönbrun, a palace

palace belonging to her Imperial Majesty, situated about a league from it. When I went upon this service, I acted as lance corporal in the grenadiers, called in the German language [*ge freyter*] that being the rank I had attained in my progression through the different regimental gradations.

Upon this occasion it became necessary that I should wear whiskers, to support in every point an uniformity with the rest of my companions; indeed the greatest part of the German troops make use of this *labial decoration*, either real or artificial.

My lip at this time, being almost as smooth as Hebe's, I was obliged to have recourse to the latter; and accordingly, I procured this ornament from the shaggy hide of a bear; its jetty colour was such a contrast to my own flaxen locks, and fair complexion, that my figure, I must acknowledge, was rather extraordinary.

And to make the matter worse, as if Fortune

tune was willing to furnish the Imperial family with a little mirth at my expence, she contrived to play me the following trick :

As I was one day relieving the sentries in the gardens, when the Empress Queen was sitting to see the younger part of her royal progeny amuse themselves at battledore and shuttle-cock, one of my whiskers having been badly fastened on, fell off, and rendered my appearance truly grotesque.

This accident attracting the attention of the Imperial children, they all burst into a violent fit of laughter, and immediately surrounded me, delighted with the oddity of the circumstance. Finding that I was a cadet, they ordered me with great good humour to lay down my arms, and partake with them in their diversions.

When they had sufficiently indulged themselves in the frolic my odd whisker had created, supposing that I was not overburthened with cash, they presented me with a ducat each;

each ; and thus an accident which seemed at first to threaten no little mortification to my vanity, procured me an honour that few can boast of.

To this may be added, the satisfaction I received from seeing the supreme head of the illustrious house of Austria surrounded by several fine sprightly children engaged in their playful exercises, devoid of all pomp and state.—The sight afforded me a pleasure, the novelty of which made it the more interesting.

With regard to the Castle of Schönbrun, I can say but little, except that it is the grandest of all the Imperial palaces.

That which the Empress resided in at Vienna is rather a mean old building, consisting of two courts ; the inner is inhabited by the Imperial family, and the outer, which is the largest, is appropriated for the household and guards.

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The grandeur of the Austrian court is exceeded by few; all the great officers of state of the household, and of the guards, and above one hundred lords of the bedchamber, who wear gold keys, are either princes, or of the first families; and as it is the resort of the nobility from all the hereditary dominions, its magnificence is beyond description.—The etiquette of this court, which consists of many ancient forms and usages being too rigidly observed, throws an air of restraint even upon their Galas, which is not at all pleasing.

As to the city of Vienna, its situation on the Danube, which is here very wide, and forms several beautiful islands, is agreeable—but the streets are narrow and dirty, and the air would be unwholesome, were it not for the wind, which here blows with great violence, almost throughout the year.—In most of the squares are fountains and other magnificent monuments erected by the Emperors.

Vienna was enlarged, beautified, and encompassed with a wall, in the year 1192, with the

s ex the ransom-money which the Marquis of Au-
state Austria obliged Richard the First, King of Eng-
bove land, to pay, amounting to one hundred and
who forty thousand marks of silver. A prodigi-
f the ous sum in those days; but it is now strongly
e no fortified in the modern way.

-The The suburbs are much larger than the city
many itself. It would take several hours to ride
gidly round the line at an ordinary pace.—From the
upon spire of the church of St. Stephen's is a most
extensive and delightful prospect, not only of
the city, suburbs, and adjacent country, but
n on the course of the Danube almost as far as Pres-
, and burg, in Hungary.

d the The inhabitants of Vienna are social, po-
ot for lite, and hospitable to strangers; but they are
t vio proud and haughty, especially those about the
most court, and said to be very fond of titles and
agni parade. Their luxury exceeds that of any
ors. other place in the world. The tables of the
great are covered with the greatest delicacies,
d en and seldom less than nine or ten different sorts
, with of wine. I will conclude this letter with a
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few words concerning the German ladies, as I would rather you should know my sentiments of the female part of every country I reside in, from the accounts I give you, from time to time, of my intimacies with them, (for such will happen.) The German ladies then in general may rather be said to be more fine than beautiful women; they seem to want that delicacy of features and person which distinguishes those of many other parts of the world; however, it does not appear that their climate had ever given birth to a Walpole, or a Gunning. As to their minds, they are naturally vain, and consequently fond of dress and grandeur, which so engrosses their hearts, as to leave little or no room for sentiments *of a more tender nature.*

They are, however, much to their praise, free from coquetry; though naturally reserved, they are, at the same time, generous and sincere—and have sense enough to be content with the personal charms Nature has been kindly pleased to bestow upon them, without having recourse to the ineffectual and pernicious

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cious aid of cosmetics.—The lower ranks of the women in the Austrian dominions are ignorant and superstitious, and credulous in the extreme.

I flatter myself you will find this a just account of the sex, though not so circumstantial and regular as some travellers would give you. But remember I did not travel on purpose to compose a journal of my adventures, and now write only to please you.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

LETTER

L E T T E R X.

London, November 15, 1785.

WHEN the Battalion was in march from Vienna, the Colonel from whom, during my stay, I had received the greatest civilities, kindly furnished me with two saddle horses, and one of his grooms to attend me.

We proceeded on our route until we reached Klein-Minkin, a village near Lintz, belonging to Count, since Prince Staremberg; here we halted for a month, during which we met the same hospitable reception I described to you upon former marches.

At parting, the Colonel requested me, whenever opportunity should offer, to teach one of the horses he had lent me, to canter slow after the English manner: our halt now afforded me leisure to obey his injunction.

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I set about it, and before we left that place, fully compleated my task.

But this undertaking had like to have proved fatal to me ; for, one day, as I was crossing over the high wooden bridge at Lintz, I was on a sudden surrounded by a number of running footmen, who preceded several noblemen's carriages, which happened at that moment to be passing ; the noise they made by cracking their whips to clear the way ; and the rattling of the carriages, made my horse become unmanageable ; and there being no space either to advance or retreat, he reared up, and fairly sprung over the battlements into the river, leaving the spectators in breathless expectation of the consequences of such an uncommon accident. In this trying moment, that fortitude with which Nature has blessed me, did not forsake me, though inevitable death seemed to present itself—I kept my seat, and my steed and I plunged into the river together.

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So great was the height of the bridge, and so deep was the Danube at this place, that as I was afterwards informed, both my horse and myself were at least a minute invisible. At length we emerged from the dreadful profundity, amidst the acclamations of the multitude, who seemed to consider me as rising from the dead.—Finding the current in my favour, and my horse unhurt, I turned his head towards an island which lay at some little distance, where we both landed in safety.

By this time some thousands lined the bridge and borders of the river, whose countenances expressed the greatest satisfaction at my having atchieved with so much *eclat* this hazardous adventure; for the generality of them being unacquainted with the cause, would not believe but I had undertaken it, in order to shew my horse's dexterity and my own resolution—nor could I persuade them to the contrary. I had no sooner reached the shore, than several surgeons attended, and advised me to be let blood—but I declined their services, telling them, jocularly, that they

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they might extract as much water as they pleased, but I did not approve of bleeding immediately after bathing.

This exploit exciting the attention of the town of Lintz and its environs, and rendering me famous, my company was courted by all the principal people—particularly by Prince Aursberg, Count Staremburg, &c. who paid me great encomiums upon it.

From these illustrious personages, and many of the nobility, I was honoured with repeated invitations, and Colonel O'Donel having committed to my care, during our march, his coach and horses; as he and his family went post, I was enabled to make these visits, either in a carriage or on horseback.

In return for these civilities, I invited them to an entertainment at Klein-Minkin—and though I treated them in the genteelest manner the village style would admit of, the whole

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of the expence amounted but to a few ducats. I mention this circumstance to give you some idea of the plenty and cheapness of provisions in that part of Germany.

In the course of our conversation, the Countess Frances, daughter to Prince Aursberg, intimated she would consent to become my bride, if I would take another leap over the bridge for her sake : I answered that I would by no means attempt it till she had honoured me with her hand. Upon her asking the reason, I told her, that in this manner only I would secure the happiness she offered ; for if I leaped before matrimony, the only certainty I had, was that of being drowned.

Among the persons of distinction that honoured my entertainment with their company, was Comte Gentili, a Corsican nobleman of great worth ; of whom I shall have occasion to speak hereafter. The Count was at this time a Lieutenant in the Austrian service ; and I had the happiness

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at that fortunate meeting to commence an acquaintance with him, which I have ever since highly esteemed.

In the course of my narrative, I have more than once mentioned circumstances, from which you may form an estimation of the cheapness of provisions in this part of the world ;—but when I further inform you, that during our halt at Klein-Minkin, I lodged and boarded for a ducat, that is about nine shillings a month ; where I had a table supplied with the choicest of provisions, and a profusion of wine, I am certain that in your calculation, be it ever so low, you have exceeded the reality.

I will just add, before I conclude the subject, that in Austria (I speak of this country from experience) there is scarcely a person above the rank of a peasant, who has not three or four dishes every day at his table, with wine in proportion ; and even the lowest ranks live in a style, of which other nations can form no conception.

In such plenty are all kinds of game, that in the season, a hare, a pheasant, or a brace of partridges, are to be bought for five or six pence sterling, and every other delicacy is proportionably cheap. Wines of the best kinds are equally reasonable; the common price of those of the country, which are very strong and well flavoured, at the time I resided there, was from fourteen to eighteen pence a gallon.

But if you consider that money is far from being as plentiful in Germany as it is in England, this inferiority of price in the necessaries of life, is in some measure accounted for. It is certain that the inferior ranks of people in Great-Britain earn considerably more; yet they cannot afford to live in any degree like those of the same class in Austria, who, indeed, know of no other enjoyment but that of the table.

Should this account of the good living of the Austrians be the means of your making

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a *German* meal, which let me tell you, is no bad method of keeping the gout off your stomach, it will amply repay me for the trouble of writing it ; and to give you an opportunity of so doing, I will put an end to my long letter.

I am, Sir, your's,

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

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LET.

L E T T E R X I.

London, November 17, 1785.

THE month destined for our halt expired sooner than we could have wished ; we accordingly bid adieu to the acquaintance we had made here, and exchanged the mirth, ease, and luxurious living we had enjoyed among them, for the fatigues of a march of some hundred miles ; for my own part, as I had the Colonel's horses at my command, I should have experienced no inconveniency from the length of the way, had not I got into an unlucky scrape, at the beginning. Our route lying through Bohemia, we passed a night at a place called Braunau ; the daughter of the landlord at the house where I happened to be billeted, a smart girl, about eighteen years old, attended upon me—As we were in a room above stairs together,

together, I could not help taking some little innocent freedom with her.

Emboldened by this, she asked me, as it was their *kirmes*, or fair time, to make her a present of some ribbands, to which I consented, on her promising to be my bedfellow that night. The promise was given—the ribbands were accordingly bought, and I hastened to bed, where I waited with the impatience of a bridegroom, for the family's retiring to rest, when I doubted not of finding the forward nymph punctual to her appointment.

But how vain and uncertain are the expectations of man?—Hour after hour passed away, and no *Mariandle* came—till having passed the greatest part of the night in a state of restless anxiety; disagreeable as this was, the scene which took place in the morning was more so. No sooner had I got down stairs, than I was accused of having ravished the virtuous *Mariandle*. It was said that I had

found my way to her chamber, in the dark, and notwithstanding she slept in the same bed with her grandmother, I had snatched by force those favours she had so readily promised to grant me.

And it was further affirmed, that all this had been done without disturbing the old lady in her slumbers, or what is more extraordinary, the injured nymph herself not uttering one shriek. Whether, as it was their fair time, some drunken peasant or soldier had got into the girl's room, and really behaved rudely to her, or the whole was a pretext to extort money from me, I could not learn; but her parents took her before a magistrate, and having obliged her to depose that I had deflowered her, I was immediately put under arrest and sent to the guard-room.

Did you ever know a more unfortunate fellow, to suffer for an offence I neither had, nor intended to commit? and that after the many anxious hours I awaited the fulfilment of the

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young rogue's promise, it was hard indeed—and I could not help cursing my fate, when I found myself *Kreuzweis Geschlossen*, as the Germans term it; which means no more nor less, than having a large chain of iron fastened from the right arm to the left leg. In this situation I was marched in the rear of the regiment, surrounded by a guard, with fixed bayonets, as if I had been a deserter.

Luckily I had a companion in my disgrace, a Lieutenant in the corps, who had been ordered the same punishment, for sacrilegiously winning at cards some money from a reverend father.—And thus we were paraded through towns and villages till we got out of the Bohemian territories, when we were set at liberty. But the most extraordinary part of the ceremony was yet to come—at least it appeared so to me, who was not yet perfectly acquainted with all the punctilios of the German discipline.

My companion and I were obliged to go to the parade, while we were yet smarting from

the galling chains, and exasperated at the ignominy we had undergone, to return our *thanks* to the Lieutenant-Colonel, Baron Ehrenstein, for the *lenity* he had shewn us. Happy was I, you may be assured, when I got out of a country where I had undergone such rigorous punishment, and that without a proof of guilt; and you may equally believe that I did not fail to execrate my Bohemian amour; in which I had missed the only balm that could have made the punishment which ensued supportable, or have afforded me the least consoling reflection.

With the recovery of my liberty, however, I reassumed my wonted chearfulness, and the rest of the route was a continued fête. Balls and entertainments were given every *third* day, which as we marched on leisurely, was a day of rest.

In this manner we went on, till we arrived at Luxemburg, a very strong fortification on the borders of Lorraine, where we joined

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our Colonel and the rest of the regiment, who had reached that place some time before.

Here, as I have informed you of all the incidents I can recollect, which befel me during the first period of my residence in Germany, I will here conclude my letter, and begin my adventures in the Austrian Netherlands on a fresh sheet of paper.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

P. S. I must here add for your further information, that from the first entering into this service, I had assumed the title of Baron, which was not in the least objected to. Yet my vanity was much flattered by the Germans in my travels through the Holy Roman Empire ; for as the quarter-masters always gave me the Colonel Count O'Donel's quarters, I was styled by my hosts, en passant, Excellence, a title given to the Counts of the Empire.

L E T T E R XII.

London, November 20, 1785.

ON entering Luxemburg, we bid adieu to festivity and pleasure, and in their places succeeded hard fare, and strict military discipline.—The garrison was strong, but far from being so well furnished with the necessities of life as the country we had lately left.

As for myself, I was soon after incessantly occupied; besides the duty of the regiment, I had to attend a French, a German, and a fencing master. So much was my time engrossed by these studies, that out of the twenty-four, were left scarce seven hours for the needful refreshments of nature. The only advantage I reaped from this, was being promoted to the rank of grenadier-corporal, in consequence of which my pay was augmented

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mented to nine *kreiutzers*, or four-pence half-penny a day, exclusive of the allowance of the ducat a month I had received from the time I became a cadet.

But the change of country had made a very considerable difference in the value of my pay ; for though in Germany it would have been sufficient to procure me not only necessaries, but even superfluities ; I should here have found it difficult to subsist on it, had I not occasionally had access to Colonel O'Donel's table.

The progress I made in acquiring the minutiae of the German discipline, was such, that it was not long before I was appointed a serjeant, and my daily pay augmented to fourteen *kreiutzers*, equal to about seven-pence sterling.

I omitted to inform you, that Colonel O'Donel was married to a German lady of high rank, and had brought her, together with his family, to Luxemburg.

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This lady had an Abigail, a *fallow, swarthy* woman, about forty years of age; who, upon all occasions, affected to be singularly civil to me.—Of this, however, I entertained no other idea, than that she wished to evince, by her complaisance, her duty to her master and mistress, with whom I was in the habits of intimacy. Trivial as this circumstance appeared to me, it had not passed unobserved, and was imputed to another cause.—For, one day, as Theresa, which was her name, and I were romping together in the nursery, unluckily made their appearance, the Colonel and his lady.—Our diversion was considered by them as so heinous an offence, that notwithstanding the presence of the nurse might have removed every suspicion of any improprieties having passed, poor Theresa was discharged, and ordered to quit Luxemburg, and, I was forbid to hold any correspondence with her—but as I was partly, though undesignedly, the cause of her incurring their displeasure, I could not help interesting myself

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in her fate ; and notwithstanding this prohibition, found means to see her privately the few days she remained in town.

As Theresa had relations living at Vienna, that appeared the most proper place for her to retire to ; and as a friend of mine, a cadet in the regiment I served in, was to set out for that city about this time, I thought it a good opportunity to facilitate her journey to the place of her nativity.

I accordingly recommended her to his protection, and this I did the more readily, as the poor woman's purse was not overweighty ; for though her lady had made her a present over and above her wages which were due to her, yet I had reason to believe the whole amount of her stock would not prove sufficient to defray the expence of her travelling ; and I knew her companion would readily supply any deficiency that might arise.

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As it was requisite to keep their going together a secret, we contrived that she should leave the town before, and wait for him at Triers.

Some time after I received a letter from the spark to whose care I had recommended her, wherein he acquainted me, that they had travelled together in the most social manner to the gates of Vienna ; but as he did not wish his father to know he had a female companion on the journey, he had there taken leave of her.

My duty employed so much of my time, and my intimacy with Theresa had so greatly displeased my Colonel, that I determined to avoid, if possible, entering into any fresh connections with the fair sex.

Resolutions of this kind, however, formed in the ardour of youth, yield to the first temptation.

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Thus did it soon happen with your humble servant; but the idol was this time far more elevated in rank, and of superior accomplishments to any I had hitherto worshipped.

My adventure with Theresa was still recent, when a lady arrived from Metz, in Lorraine, with letters of recommendation to Colonel O'Donel. She was a beautiful young brunette, and had been married to a person of rank in France, who for some imputed crime against the state, was thrown into the Bastile, where he was supposed to have suffered death. On this she came to Luxemburg with a view to live retired upon a pension of five thousand livres (about two hundred pounds sterling) a year, which in that country is considered as a handsome income.

As the Count entertained the fair stranger at his own house till proper apartments could be provided for her, I had the happiness of being often in her company, which it was impossible to enjoy, without admiring, and even

even loving her; and insensibly the tender passion took possession of my heart.

One day she expressed a desire to learn the English language, and I was honoured with the pleasing task of being her teacher; in return she was to improve me in the French.— This giving us frequent opportunities of being together, the language of love became more the subject of our study than any other; and every hour I could spare from regimental duty was devoted to her.

In this enchanting intercourse a year and a half stole away; during which time her generosity was incessantly contriving some ingenious method to improve my circumstances, without hurting my feelings. At length an express arrived, requiring my amiable friend to repair to Paris, in order to take possession of some effects belonging to her late husband.

This interruption to our happiness was far from pleasing to either of us; and seeing me

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deeply afflicted at our approaching separation, she gave me a proof of the most disinterested affection, by offering me her hand in marriage. Overwhelmed with joy at such an unexpected offer, I accepted it with heartfelt gratitude; but as our wishes could not be accomplished without the knowledge and approbation of the Colonel, she intimated her intention to him; adding, that she would engage to procure me a commission in the French service.

Colonel O'Donnel (who was without doubt acquainted with some circumstances to which we both were strangers) advised her to go and settle her affairs first; and if, at the expiration of six months from her departure, she continued in the same mind, he would give me leave to follow her. She then entreated that he would permit me to attend her to Paris; but this being refused, we were obliged to part.

In the first paroxysm of my grief I could not help expressing my resentment towards
the

the Colonel in terms which appeared so improper, that I was put under an arrest, and confined to the barracks for a week ; nor was I permitted to go beyond the gates of the town for twice that time.

Resignation to my fate now seemed the only way to render it supportable. Indeed I had one consolation, that was the frequent assurances I received from my beloved mistress of her unalterable affection, which proved a never-failing cordial to revive my drooping spirits. Our correspondence, however lasted but for a short time ; when all at once it ceased, without my being able to conjecture the cause of so sudden a deprivation of the only comfort I enjoyed. There appeared a mystery in it, for which I could not account, therefore was obliged to have recourse to my usual remedy, *Patience*.

Some months after our separation, I received from Vienna an Ensign's commission in General Laudohn's regiment of foot, with orders

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orders to repair immediately to Kuttemburg, in Bohemia, where it then lay.

Beneficial to my interest, and flattering to my pride as this promotion was, yet, by removing me so great a distance from the object of my affections, I could almost have wished it had, at least for the present, been suspended. As love is ingenious, it, however suggested a scheme, which I determined to carry into execution, whatever might result from it.

After taking leave of my Colonel and the officers of the corps, who parted from me with professions of continued friendship, I set out for Triers, which is distant about six leagues from Luxemburg. On my arrival there, instead of pursuing my journey, I hired post-horses, and took the road to Paris, which I reached on the evening of the second day.

The next morning I dispatched a billet to the fair charmer who had occasioned this retrograde

trogade tour, requesting an interview. While I was anxiously expecting an answer, a gentleman was introduced to me in the uniform of the Mousquetaires, with the cross of St. Lewis at his breast.

After the first salutations were over, he informed me that the Marchioness de ———, his wife, had received my note, and commissioned him to be the bearer of her respects to me, requesting at the same time my company at dinner.

My surprize at receiving such an unexpected eclaircissement, may be more easily guessed than described. So sudden a disappointment, together with the recollection of the lady's late partiality for me, deprived me of the power of utterance.

The Marquis observing this, told me I need not be disconcerted, as his lady had informed him of our mutual attachment. He then proceeded to acquaint me, that he had
been

been long confined, and that it was reported that he had been privately executed; however, his innocence of the crimes laid to his charge being proved, he had at length been restored to liberty, and the enjoyment of his honours, fortune, and family.

I attended him to his house, where I was received by the Marchioness with every mark of friendship—but how different was this meeting from the last!—Disappointed in the hope that brought me to Paris, I determined to pursue my journey to Bohemia immediately; but the Marquis and Marchioness pressed me so strongly to pass a day or two with them, that I could not refuse it.

On the third day, however, I set off, when the Marchioness insisted on my acceptance of a purse, containing fifty Louis d'Ors, in order, as she was pleased to say, to enable me to travel with more expedition, and regain the time I had lost for her sake.

As

As this supply was a seasonable relief in my circumstances, I was at length prevailed on to take it; and though I could not look upon it in any shape as a compensation for the disappointment I had suffered, yet, by lessening the inconvenience of my journey, it contributed in some measure to make me forget an unsuccessful passion; and the natural inconstancy of my heart, too susceptible of tender impressions from new objects, was a never-failing balm to heal the wounds it had sustained from the past.

This long story having carried my letter to a much greater extent than I intended, I will here put an end to it with assuring you,

I am, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

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LETTER XIII.

London, Nov. 27, 1785.

IN proportion as my distance from Paris encreased, I found my cares lighter; and when I reached Nuremberg, Fortune, as if to atone for her late ill usage, provided me with an agreeable companion for the greatest part of my journey.

I there accidentally met a Saxon lady, travelling in her own carriage, with whom I soon found means to become acquainted; and it was not long before we were so intimate, that she invited me to accept a place in her carriage as far as Egra, in the kingdom of Bohemia. You will naturally suppose that I was highly pleased with such a flattering offer; and indeed I had reason to be so; for I found my fellow-traveller lively and entertaining, so that the time we passed together

appeared as a moment to me. But when we reached the purposed place of our separation, so happy were we in each other's company, that I easily persuaded her to go on as far as Prague. And when we parted with mutual regret, I prevailed on her to accept a token of my esteem, more valuable on that account.

As soon as I had parted with my amiable companion, I went to my old quarters, the convent of the Franciscan friars, where I was sure of meeting with the most hospitable reception; there I met Count M'Nevan, whom I have introduced to your acquaintance before.

These Monks were much respected by all the neighbouring nobility, on account of their learning and piety; and some of them were held in distinguished esteem for their preaching. After a slight refreshment, I took leave of my venerable friends; and Count M'Nevan obligingly accompanied me in his carriage to Baron Cavanagh's, at Yenditz, where

where we dined. The Baron afterwards ordered his calash, and conducted me to Kuenberg, where I immediately waited on Count John O'Donnel, who received me with his usual friendship and cordiality.

The next day the General introduced me to my Colonel, whose name was Walsch, a Knight of the Order of St. Teresa. In the Austrian service there are two Colonels to every regiment, and a Lieutenant-Colonel; the first is called the Proprietor, who has the rank of General; and the other is the Colonel-Commandant. Of the latter was Colonel Walsch, the regiment belonging to General Loudon, after whom it was called; as are all the Austrian regiments, as they take the name of their General.

Colonel Walsch was an Irishman, and a strict disciplinarian; and so tyrannical, that he was hated by the officers and privates; and I found him always readier to be of detriment than of service to me. As I had many com-

pliments from the officers of the corps I had left, to deliver to Count Lacy, Captain of grenadiers in Loudon's regiment, and Knight of St. Teresa, a very brave officer, I enquired after him immediately upon my arrival; and being informed by the General that he was then under an arrest, in his own quarters, on account of some military etiquette betwixt him and his Colonel, I expressed a desire of visiting him, in order to execute the commission I was entrusted with. But the General told me, that it would then be highly imprudent at this juncture, as such a step could not fail of giving offence to Colonel Walsch; and he desired me to get my regimentals in readiness to mount guard, and fetch up those I was in arrears since my promotion. I followed his advice, and mounted guard soon after, as it was on a high festival in Gala.

As this was the first duty I had done since I joined this regiment, I entertained the officers at dinner, and the ladies at supper and a ball,

a ball, in the Town-Hall, under which was the guard-room, as is usual in the small towns of Germany. Countess O'Donnel, the General's lady, condescended to act as the mistress, and Prince Waldeck, Captain of grenadiers, as master of the ceremonies, (a German regiment has two grenadier companies.) All the preparations for the entertainment were, by the General's leave, made at his house; and though Tokay wine was drunk freely, yet the expence amounted but to twenty ducats.

The following day I waited on the General to return him my thanks, and presented him the sum he had so generously disbursed. He desired me not to be uneasy at the expence he was at, as he was glad to give me a mark of his regard; but he expressed, at the same time, great surprize at my being in possession of so much money, which was seldom the case with subaltern officers, especially after a journey of three or four hundred miles, which he knew I had travelled with a

purse not much better furnished than that I had then produced. I candidly confessed that I had been to Paris, and what adventures I had met with. This account seemed to please him very much ; though he added a friendly reproof for my deviation from military duty, and advised me to be more cautious in future. After passing three months in this situation, my time being divided between duty and pleasure, an event took place, which as it was the motive of my bidding *adieu* to the Austrian service, I must trace a little higher.

You remember, Colonel, I told you in one of my preceding letters, that when I first came to Bohemia, Father M'Ginnis, from a well-meaning, but mistaken zeal to serve me, and even without asking me before about the truth of his supposition, introduced me to the notice of Lieutenant-Colonel John O'Donnel as the son of his aunt, and consequently his cousin-german.

Young and thoughtless as I was at the time, and eager to begin my military career

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at any rate, I did not think it necessary to contradict this friendly report, which, though deviating from truth in some particulars, yet in ascertaining only that I was nearly allied to the O'Donnels, contained no falshood. Upon my return from Luxemburg, the General wrote to Mr. John M'Gauran, of Port, in the county of Cavan, married to Ann O'Donnel, the General's cousin-german, telling him that a cousin of his, grand-son of Colonel Bryan M'Gauran, and son of Mary O'Donnel, was serving then in Loudon's regiment, quartered where he resided. Mr. M'Gauran, jealous of my prosperity, having many young sons of his own, whom he thought better entitled to the General's protection; but, notwithstanding, though he knew me to be his own near relation, wrote to the General, to inform him that I was not the son of Mary O'Donnel, but an impostor. The General shewed me the letter, and asked me the truth, which I told him, together with the motives I had for not revealing it sooner; all of which he approved, and matters seemed to be accommodated.

But his lady, the Countess, shewing the letter to Colonel Walsch, who was always ready to make bad worse, he flew in a passion, and swore that he would not suffer me to remain an hour longer in the regiment. Upon the General's telling him, that though I was not his cousin-german, yet I was his relation, he was a little pacified, but insisted that I should retire till the whole of this affair was perfectly cleared up. The General therefore advised me to go for some time to Baron Kavanagh's, at Yenditz; adding, that he would write to Ireland for authentic proofs of my being the grand-son of Colonel Bryan M'Gauran, when I might return to my regiment with honour.

He said he was satisfied with my past conduct in other respects, but advised me, as a friend, never more to suffer truth to be altered; for though he was willing to make allowances for my youth, military ardour, and gratitude to Father M'Ginnis, yet scrupulous persons, or enemies, would never fail

to

to seize such an opportunity to injure me, and perhaps I might not always have the same excuses with my friends.

During my abode at Yenditz, it happened that the Baron's family had occasion to brew for their own use : this no person in Bohemia, however elevated his rank, is suffered to do, without first obtaining a permit, in which the quantity is specified. Some excisemen in the neighbourhood, having suspicion, or information, that more beer was made than the quantity allowed, came to the Baron's house with an intent to search. Three of them arrived while we were at dinner, and tying their horses to the iron railing of the parlour window, proceeded to the brew-house, where they shut up and sealed the fire-place under the brewing copper, and began to gauge the contents. The Baron, who guessed their intention, appeared much alarmed ; but his daughters exclaimed, if they were men, such an insult should not pass unchastised.

An incitement of this kind soon roused my indignation, and, not reflecting on the consequences, I snatched my sword, and sallied forth, turned the horses loose, and running to the brew-house, called to the excisemen to draw and defend themselves. On their refusal, disdaining to stain my sword with the blood of such paltrons, I attacked them with logs of wood, which I showered on them so fast, that they soon made a precipitate retreat.

The young ladies highly applauded my spirited conduct, as they termed it, but their father seemed greatly displeased with it; and the next day he told me, that I could not with safety remain any longer at his house; and that the best step I could take, would be to return to my regiment, and acquaint the General and my Colonel with what had happened, who, he added, were the only persons that were able, and, he doubted not, willing to prevent any disagreeable consequences resulting from this affair.

But

But in this conjecture the old gentleman was mistaken; for no sooner had I related my story at Kuttenberg, than my Colonel ordered me to be put in irons, and that I should be debarred the use of pen, ink, and paper; nor was I permitted to see any one, the Provost excepted.—My disaster afforded Mr. Walsch too favourable an opportunity to accomplish a scheme he had been meditating, which was, to procure his nephew my commission in his regiment. He therefore had recourse to the following artifice to effect his purpose, and turn me adrift. After keeping me a month in close confinement, he sent the auditor of the regiment to let me know that he thought I had suffered enough for what I had done; but that if he released me I should be claimed by the civil power, and severely punished for assaulting the revenue officers in the discharge of their duty. He therefore advised me to leave Bohemia for the space of two years, at the expiration of which I might, with safety, return (that being the period limited by law for the prosecution

secution of similar offences;) and not only offered to accept my resignation, but to take such measures as would enable me to leave the kingdom without risque.

Deceived by these pretensions, I fell into the snare that had been laid for me, and demanded my dismissal, which was immediately granted me; and my commission soon after given to the Colonel's nephew. Thus I bade *adieu* to Bohemia, and returned to my native country, where I met with fresh disappointments.

An account of these I shall reserve for my next letter—In the mean time,

I am, &c. &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

LET.

LETTER XIV.

London, December 3, 1785.

ON leaving Bohemia, I proceeded to England, and from thence to Ireland, where on my arrival, I undertook the troublesome, but necessary task of getting my pedigree drawn out and certified by all my relations, with an intent to return to Germany as soon as the disagreeable affair which had compelled me to resign my commission, was hushed up. And by producing these credentials, remove every doubt or suspicion concerning my descent, which my unthinking conduct might have created in the minds of the Irish officers, with whom I had served. My relations being numerous, and dispersed throughout the kingdom, I was several months employed in collecting their attestations, which I found was necessary to have corroborated by the testimony of Dr. Reilly, the Titular

tular Bishop of Kilmore, who was then absent : I applied to Dr. M'Guire, the Catholic Bishop of Dromore, then at the house of Mr. Robert M'Guire of *Tempo* ; he refused to grant me my request, although he knew my pretensions to be just. Exasperated at his duplicity, which was injurious to my purpose and his tenets, I set off, and travelling all night, arrived the next morning at Kilmore, the seat of Dr. Craddock, the Protestant Bishop, who signed my certificate, which was followed by the dignified clergy, and the nobility of the neighbourhood, which I thought an ample indemnification for my recent disappointment. Possessed of these credentials, I proceeded by way of Dublin to London ; here I was introduced by a friend to the Right Honourable Charles Dillon, son to Lord Dillon, who, on hearing my adventures, dissuaded me from returning to Germany, and advised me to try my fortune in the service of Russia ; adding, that he would recommend me to Sir George (now Lord) Macartney, who had been just appointed Ambassador to the Court of Petersburg.

Petersburg, and under whose auspices, I could not fail of meeting with success. He kept his word, and Sir George promised not only to take me out in his suite, but to use his endeavours with the Empress to obtain me a commission in her army. This pleasing hope, however, vanished soon after, in consequence of Sir George's marriage with a daughter of the Earl of Bute, and resignation, when Lord Cathcart was nominated to the Russian Embassy. Being thus entirely destitute, I once more resolved to steer my course to Germany; and understanding that the Dutchess of Northumberland was going to Spa, it occurred to me that this was a favourable opportunity to offer my services to her grace, as I understood the language. I accordingly waited on Mr. Dillon (whom I knew to be well acquainted with the Dutchess) and he readily promised to introduce me to her, either in person or by letter; but unluckily he was obliged to leave London before he had time to do either. In this dilemma, the only resource I had was to make use of Mr. Dillon's name,

name, and with the help of a little Hibernian assurance, be my own introducer : with this view I set out for Dover immediately, that I might be there previous to the Dutchess's embarkation ; here I met some of her retinue, who, on enquiry, told me that her grace was not arrived, and the time of her arrival uncertain ; and that if I had any business of consequence to communicate to the Dutchess, I must do it by letter, as she had given strict orders that no stranger should be admitted to her presence. Her motive for so doing, I afterwards learned, was, because she had received many anonymous letters, threatening her with death if she did not deposit a certain sum at a place appointed. My being a stranger, and making enquiries at that critical period, raised suspicions in the minds of her servants, one of whom was immediately dispatched to her Grace (then at Canterbury on her journey to Dover) with an account of what had passed, together with a minute description of my person. Alarmed at this intelligence,

telligence, she returned directly to London, and the Duke supposing me the author of the incendiary letters, sent two officers of justice to apprehend me at Dover. These men on their arrival, introduced themselves to me as persons in the Dutchess's service. However, they soon undeceived me; for one of them disappeared, and returning with a constable, and producing his warrant, which had been backed by a magistrate, I supposed, in the interval of his absence, he informed me, I was the King's prisoner, at the Dutchess of Northumberland's suit. Conscious of my innocence, this reverse of fortune did not give me any uneasiness, for I made a hearty dinner, after which I returned with my conductors in a post-chaise and four for London, and we arrived early in the morning at Northumberland House. Here I was interrogated by the late Sir John Fielding, in the presence of the Duke and Dutchess; nothing, however, appearing to criminate me, except the suspicions already mentioned, I was committed for further

further examination to Tothill-Fields, Bridewell; but the noble pair, to atone in some measure, for what was, perhaps, an improper exertion of their influence, ordered the keeper to board and lodge me in his own house, at their expence, and to grant me every indulgence that was consistent with the safe custody of my person.

In this situation some days elapsed, when I was re-examined at Northumberland House by the same magistrate, who finding that neither the Duke's promises nor his menaces could extort from me a confession of guilt, advised me to put off my trial till the next quarter sessions; as by so doing, besides affording time to collect proofs which might make my innocence appear more conspicuous, it would give me a claim to their Grace's protection and assistance.

To this proposal I assented, and returned to my prison. During my confinement, the

Dutchess

Dutchess received more letters to the same purport, which increasing the suspicions against me, my letters were all stopped and opened; among the rest was found one I had written to my mother in Ireland, in which I gave her the following laconic account of my disaster:

“Honoured Madam,

“My journey to Germany is deferred; a few days since I met her Grace the Dutchess of Northumberland; she has taken a liking to me; I am kept by her at one of her country seats near London, and I make no doubt but she will soon provide for me.

I am, &c. &c.”

At length the quarter-sessions came on, but the recent letters the Dutchess had received, though no proof of my guilt could be brought, induced her to appear in person at the Guildhall, Westminster, and desire my trial might be postponed some time longer. Soon after, however, the real authors of the
in-

incendiary letters were discovered, and I was in consequence honourably acquitted ; and as I am now going to enter upon a very different scene of action, I shall conclude this letter with assuring you,

I am, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

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L E T T E R XV.

London, December 10, 1785.

AS soon as I had recovered that first of blessings, liberty, I waited on their Graces; and as I was weary of remaining in a place where I had met with so many disasters, I intimated to them my wish to join General Paoli in Corsica, as a volunteer, which they not only applauded, but furnished me with money sufficient to equip me, and defray my passage to Italy.

In November 1768, I embarked on board the Roman Eagle, Captain Riddle, bound for Villa Franca, Genoa, and Leghorn; this was the same vessel in which General Paoli made his escape to Leghorn, in the month of May 1769, after the island of Corsica had been over-run by the French troops, and he had

had seen the standard of Freedom deserted by the greatest part of its followers. I was even credibly informed that the French court connived at his retreat ; whether they were glad to get rid of such an adversary, rather than drive him to despair, or that they were perplexed how to treat him, if he had been taken prisoner ; for though, according to their proclamation, he was declared a rebel and a traitor, yet they knew that it would fix an indelible stigma on the French nation to punish a man whose cause had attracted the admiration of all Europe. Be this as it may, it is certain that upon application, the French commander in chief granted a passport to this ship to go and return unmolested from any part of Corsica ; and when Mr. Paoli and his suite were on board, she was hailed by two French frigates cruizing off the island, who upon hearing her name, immediately made off, without sending their boat to search her, as they had done by several other vessels. In this manner the General arrived in safety at Leghorn, where the expectations of the people

people to see the man who had made such a noble stand for the liberties of his country, against the forces of the most powerful monarch in Europe, were raised to the highest pitch. But he thinking that a fugitive was not entitled to make a triumphant entry, he went privately from on board the Roman Eagle by the canals which intersect part of the town, to the house of the British Consul, where, by invitation, he was to take up his quarters. However, he could not evade the inquisitive impatience of the populace as easily as he had his French pursuers. He was discovered in the moment of landing, and numbers soon gathered from all parts of that small, but populous town; obstructed his passage, while they poured their applauses on him, and hailed his arrival with such shouts and acclamations, as if he had been the conqueror. So great is the ascendancy of courage and virtue, even over degenerate minds, who can aspire to neither.

I shall

I shall not apologize for this digression, Colonel, as I thought that these anecdotes, which are not generally known, and which I would not introduce as part of my adventures, not having been an eye-witness to them, would prove interesting to you, and relieve the tedium which the perusal of the dull account of my disasters may have occasioned.

But to resume the thread of my narrative.—We sailed no further than the Race of Portland before a violent storm came on, accompanied by hazy weather, which had nearly occasioned our being wrecked on the back of the Isle of Wight; however, we escaped the danger, and fortunately got into Cowes, where we repaired the damages we had sustained.

As soon as the weather became favourable, we left Cowes, and had a quick passage to Villa Franca, which is a small village in the King of Sardinia's dominions, furnished by Nature with an excellent harbour. It is divided from Nice, belonging to the same prince,

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prince, by a neck of land about three miles over. This last is a handsome town of considerable trade, at the foot of the Alps, which shelter it from the north-east winds, in a delightful valley, especially in winter, when the atmosphere is perfumed by the fragrancy of the lemon and orange groves. The wholesomeness of the air, and mildness of the climate, render it much resorted to by invalids of all nations. Amongst others, I had the honour to make acquaintance with Colonel Nugent, son to Lord Clare, a noble character, who was here for the recovery of his health. I was likewise introduced to several eminent merchants, who entertained me at their houses with the greatest hospitality, and in whose company I made small excursions in the surrounding country; which though in the month of January, I found charming, beyond the powers of my pen to describe. The season was like spring, as sung by the poets; the sun was warm, the air serene, and fruits and blossoms mingled on the same trees; while the earth, as if grateful for the blessings

of Heaven, poured forth her perfumes sweeter than incense.

After passing some days in this enchanting spot, during which our ship was unloading part of her cargo, we set sail for Genoa ; but had not proceeded far, when a north-east wind drove us into the Gulph of St. Fiorenzo, in Corfica. With rapture I beheld from thence the wished-for place of my destination, and the stage where Liberty was acting her noblest part ; whilst the showry brows of the tremendous cliffs darting through clouds, and seeking as it were, an intercourse with heaven, struck me with awe and reverence. The wind however soon shifted, and filling our sails, we exchanged the view of the rugged abode of the sons of Freedom, for that of the delicious seat of their oppressors, who unable to subdue them, had sold them to a more powerful.

About noon we came within sight of Genoa, which from the sea offers the finest landscape

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MAJOR M'GAURAN. 147

you can imagine ; but as the place well deserves a more circumstantial description, I shall here conclude my letter ; and in my next I will endeavour to give you an idea of this magnificent town, and entertain you with some particulars of the memorable revolution of 1745, which are not generally known.

In the mean time I remain, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

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LET.

L E T T E R XVI.

London, December 16, 1785.

I Promised you in my last a short account of the city of Genoa, and some particulars of the memorable revolution which happened in 1745.

I shall confine my narration to such things only as came to my knowledge on the spot, and which are not generally found in books. I flatter myself that you will not repent the few minutes you bestow on their perusal.

From the sea Genoa appears in its greatest pomp. It is built on the declivity of a mountain, at the bottom of a spacious bay, so that the whole strikes your eye at once, and you are not obliged to guess the vicinity of a town from some Gothic steeples only.

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The magnificence of many of the buildings may be seen at a considerable distance, and the extensive suburbs, together with the innumerable villas and crowded villages in the neighbourhood, seem to form an immense city, of which Genoa is only the centre. The surrounding hills, covered with the most luxuriant and variegated orange and olive trees, present a delicious landscape :— but when on shore, Genoa appeared not altogether equal to many places I had seen before, which had attracted the notice of travellers. The streets are narrow,, and, two excepted, impassable for carriages. The excessive height of the houses, in general six or seven stories, and the black colour which is universally worn by all ranks, threw a melancholy gloom on all the town, that but ill agreed with my volatile disposition. Most of the palaces are so situated, that the beauties of architecture are entirely lost for want of a proper point of view. This, however, is not the case in Strada-Nova and Strada-Balbi. It is not in my power to give you a description of them

suitable to their grandeur. Imagine two streets which, taken together, are upwards of half a mile in length, and consist entirely of palaces, every one of which, inhabited by noblemen, would be worthy of a sovereign. Not one of the many *houses*, for so I must call them, of the King of England, can be compared to the most inconsiderable mansion in either. I have been credibly informed, that a German prince has had his residence built on the same plan as the palace Durazzo, and that, though he has tolerably succeeded in imitating the architecture, it has not been in his power to adorn it with the same rich marble on the outside, or the masterly paintings in the inside. If I remember right, it was one of the Margraves of Bareith, before that principality came to the Margrave of Anspach.

What engaged my attention next, were the charitable foundations; two of which are on a scale exceeding any thing I have ever seen of the sort. It is not for me to determine

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whether such institutions require magnificence or not, yet I have been assured that the managers contrive to make them as useful to themselves as they can, though not always so to the public. One is a work-house, called *Albergo de Poveri*, in which upwards of four thousand poor men, women, and children, are maintained and educated. The produce of their work, and the numerous contributions and legacies of charitable persons, are applied to this purpose. The other is the general hospital: a long room, or gallery of it, containing several hundred beds, is appropriated to persons who have been wounded with knives or stilettos; the arms with which common people still decide their quarrels almost throughout Italy. When I saw the hospital, most of the beds were occupied; two or three persons who had been stabbed were brought in during the time I went through the several wards. One particular, however, I must remark, much to the praise of the managers, and this is the great cleanliness so uncommon in Italy, which is ob-

served both in the workhouse and hospital: And in this last the sick are not crowded several in one bed, as in Paris, and other parts of the continent.

The women of Genoa are beautiful. They have the finest black eyes and fresh complexions I ever met in my travels, except in Greece. As to their characters I can say but little: my stay was so short that I could form no acquaintance with any of them: yet in Italy they are as proverbial for their easy virtue, as men are for their perfidy. Of this last I made no experience; and when I consider, that the Genoese are the most expert and intrepid sailors among the Italians; that they are the only ones who dare engage the Algerines; and that through their own bravery they have, for three centuries, asserted their independence against all foreign powers, while the rest of the Italian states have submitted to the yoke of any northern prince who pleased to impose it upon them, I am led to believe that this charge is the off-

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spring of jealousy ; and such I am confident is that against the women : for the other Italian ladies, conscious of their inferiority in personal charms, most likely have attempted to reduce the virtue of the Genoese to the *same level* with themselves.

The memorable event of the year 1745, when an undisciplined and unarmed rabble rescued the town from the Austrians, and drove out a victorious army that was within their walls, affords an incontestible proof of what I have asserted. I have been shewn the spot where the riot began. It is distinguished by a tablet and inscription. The first cause was trifling ; yet as it marks the spirit of the nation, I will insert it.

The Austrians were conveying the greatest part of the artillery belonging to the republic on board their, or rather the English, transports, in order to carry it off : a large mortar happened to break the pavement, and stuck fast. The commanding officer immediately

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ordered

ordered the spectators to assist his men in getting the mortar off; and upon their refusal, according to the German custom in similar cases, began to make use of his cane. Such an insult exasperated the Genoese, already impatient under the command of foreigners, still more; and they assailed the officers with stones, clubs, and such weapons. The tumult soon spread, and the enraged Genoese, at the behaviour of the Germans, rose at once. Though apparently without a leader, they soon cleared the town of the Austrians, who, panic-struck, fled without order; and the country people cut off, or took prisoners, all the stragglers they could meet. During several days the city was in a state of anarchy; for the senate, dreading the resentment of the Empress-Queen, pretended that the capitulation was violated, and declined resuming the government till they thought themselves perfectly secure, and had assurances of having powerful assistance from the French. One of the first acts of their revived power marks the unrelenting
suspicious

suspicious temper of aristocratic governments, and is so consonant to that spirit of tyranny with which that in particular has, for ages, oppressed the Corsicans, that I must relate it. Notwithstanding the populace was armed, and the nobility courted their favour, yet they were so intent upon the deliverance of their country from its foreign oppressors, that they did not even mention their own domestic wrongs, though the power of redressing them were in their own hands. In the beginning they acted without rules, every man according to his own judgment. But as it always happens in popular commotions, that some one or other acquires authority over the rest, a fisherman exerted himself, not without success, in keeping the rabble in some order, and giving energy to their undertakings. He always set the guards, and went the rounds himself during the night, on the walls. This popularity, small as it was, was sufficient to alarm the jealousy of his cowardly despots. No sooner was the state secure from its external foes, than this

man was apprehended on a charge of treasonable correspondence with the enemy; and without any trial, after a secret examination for form's sake, privately executed in prison.

Such was the reward patriotism received from men who had skulked in the time of danger.—To the French Generals, who afterwards defended the town, the senate has been more grateful.—Boufflers, who died in consequence of the unremitting assiduity with which he discharged his duty, is buried in a corner of the church *del Annunziata*, and a small tablet tells, to those who will be at the trouble of finding it out, what his merits were.—To the Duke of Richlieu, who succeeded him in command, and who is still alive, they have erected a statue in the great hall where the council meets, with a most pompous inscription. If report is to be credited, Richlieu is more indebted for this honour to his achievements in the field of Venus than that of Mars.

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In my next I hope to entertain you with a subject more agreeable to you than that of a tyrannical senate, and of a handful of men nobly fighting for their liberty.—Till then, adieu.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

LET.

L E T T E R XVII.

London, December 20, 1785.

THE Genoese being at war with the Corsicans, I was obliged to proceed to Leghorn, in order to procure a passage to some port in Corsica, that was not in possession of the French; as it was no easy matter to obtain leave from their commander to pass to General Paoli's quarters, especially for a military man. On my arrival at Leghorn, however, I was lucky enough to meet a Corsican galley ready to sail, in which I immediately embarked. We left the Mole at night, and with the assistance of light breezes, and of oars, arrived next day at *Port Prunelle*, in Corsica. Without loss of time, I set off over land, and reached *Campoloro* and *Casinka* before night, where I was entertained at the house of the principal magistrate, who
treated

treated me with great friendship, both as an *Inglese*, and as professing myself a volunteer in their cause.

The mode of travelling in *Corfica* is very different from that on the Continent. The roads are only paths ; having generally a steep mountain on one side, and a valley, or rather a precipice with a rivulet at the bottom ; even where the country is more level, they are no broader, but bound by woods and hedges.

The only vehicles are horses, which are like the Welch ponies, and very sure footed ; so that there is no real danger in the narrowest parts, whatever the imagination may present as such.

As there are no inns in *Corfica*, except in the towns on the sea-coast, which for a long time had French garrisons in them, so travellers must put up with such accommodation as they can get in convents, which still
keep

keep up in this country to the primitive spirit of their institution; unless they can procure proper recommendations, or conciliate the minds of the people by some external circumstance, in their appearance; in which case the nobility or chief magistrate in every village, are foremost in shewing their hospitality.

A stranger, however, must be careful not to give offence by his behaviour, especially to women; for hospitable as the *Corficians* are, yet they have a quick sense of their dignity, and wanting the polish of the more refined inhabitants of other parts of Europe, are too apt to construe into a criminal attempt, what elsewhere would pass for an innocent freedom only. Of this I had nigh made a fatal experience at *Campoloro*: as my landlord's daughter, a smart young girl of sixteen years of age, seemed to take great notice of my English boots, silver spurs, and doe-skin breeches, with which I had equipped myself in the morning, I took her in my arms and kissed her.

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her. The father was enraged at this, and vowed vengeance against me, as I was afterwards informed; for at that time I did not understand the Italian language. By his gestures, which in that country are joined to speech, I could perceive that some mischief was intended, and easily guessed at the cause. A Corsican officer who spoke French, happening to be then present, I explained as well as I could, that what I had done, was in friendship; and that it was so customary in my country, that an omission of that ceremony would be looked upon as want of good breeding. By translating my apology, he at last succeeded in pacifying the old gentleman, who swore that if a Corsican had dared to behave to his daughter in such a rude manner, nothing less than his blood could have satisfied him.

However, we parted good friends; when I set out for Borgo, where there is an old castle, and from thence passing over tremendous rocks, I reached at night the convent of Murato,

Murato, then the head-quarters of General Paoli. Here I met Count Gentili, my old acquaintance, who had left the Austrian service in order to defend his native country, and who was so kind as to introduce me to the general. Lord Stavordale, now Earl of Ilchester, and Mr. St. Paul were likewise there on their travels.

Mr. Paoli expressed the warmest approbation of my resolution to assist the cause of liberty, and promised me every encouragement in his power ; but at the same time he very justly observed, that having imbibed the first rudiments of military science in the German service, where the discipline was so strict, it would be dangerous for me to act with the natives, who knew no discipline, and admitted of no other superiority in their officers, than of being the first to expose themselves in action, a method very inconsistent with my ideas, having but little knowledge of the country or language : he therefore advised me to wait till the corps of foreigners the state

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was then attempting to raise, should be completed, in which I could hope to serve with honour and success; and that it would be proper to return to Leghorn, where I could be more *a portée* to correspond with my friends in Great-Britain and Ireland, or to seize any favourable opportunity to promote my fortune, if such a one should offer in the mean time. For this purpose he gave me a passport and certificate as a proof, that I had offered my services in the cause of freedom, though circumstances did not permit my acting in it.

I shall not tire your patience, Colonel, with an account of the origin and progress of the war, which the Corsicans, with little intermission and various success sustained against the Genoese for upwards of two centuries, though these last were occasionally assisted by the arms of Austria and France. And the Corsicans might perhaps at this day, be in undisputed possession

possession of their independence, or at least struggling for it with the hopes of obtaining it, had not the Republic, consulting their revenge more than their honour, at last transferred their rights to the crown of France. All this, as well as the mock reign of *Theodore*, and the subsequent events to the period I am writing of, you are well acquainted with. A few anecdotes, however, some of which may by too severe critics be deemed trivial; yet as they strongly mark the character of that small, but memorable nation, and are perhaps not generally known, I am confident you will not be displeased to find in this place.

The *Corficans*, though Italians by the language, are very different in their character from the race that now inhabit that country. Perhaps they come nearer to what the Romans were in antient times; if we make an allowance for the softening given to their rough features by the more polished writers

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of the Augustan age; intrepidity and coolness, in the midst of danger, love of their country, and a strong sense of real honour, not of that tinsel virtue so misnamed at this day, are equally distinguishable in both. Yet they differ very much in one respect; and from that only can, in my opinion, be derived the different fate these two Republics have met. The Romans, obedient to the laws in peace, submitting to the most rigid discipline in war, carried their arms and their glory to the remotest corner of the globe.

The Corsicans, on the contrary, by having their oppressors for legislators, spurned the very idea of a law, and disdained every other security, but such as was obtained by their own arms; and being prevented from acting in a body, had carried their ideas of independence even to that scene, where alone they are misplaced, the field of battle. For these reasons, they were, by the rest of Europe, held in no better estimation than Barbarians struggling for liberty, without assistance, and
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fell unpitied ; and though they could dispute every inch of ground, and were by the nature of their country, often enabled to defeat regular armies, or sell them victory at an exorbitant rate, yet they were at last subdued by the bayonet, and the last argument of kings, the cannon.

Pasquale Paoli, their General, used all his endeavours to root out the custom of private revenge, which had originated from the shameless partiality of the Genoese government, by strict administration of justice ; and might have succeeded, if his cares had not been divided, and often entirely engrossed by the defence of his country, against her foreign enemies.

Clemente Paoli, his brother, as good a soldier, though less of a statesman, and who exerted himself in introducing some ideas of military discipline in their mode of warfare, and of bushfighting, enabled his countrymen to face the French battalions in the field. In

some

some attempts he succeeded, and occasionally bore off such trophies as colours, and even cannon. He was, however, better seconded when the action admitted of the old way of lying in wait for their enemy. At the affair of the *Ponte di Guolo*, they gave proofs of the most undaunted courage; after their ambush had been discovered, and the slight intrenchments they had thrown up, nearly demolished by the enemies artillery, they filled the breaches with the dead bodies of their countrymen, and such of the enemy as had advanced too far, and when these were insufficient to repair the damage incessantly done by the heavy shot, such of the Corsicans as had been disabled by wounds, of their own accord laid themselves down in the openings; and though they could not annoy the enemy themselves, it afforded a cover to their friends while they were taking aim, the only manner in which their firings were attended with effect; for they know nothing of platoons, or other quick methods of discharging fire-arms.

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Their weapons are a long barrelled fusée, or fowling-piece, of an exceeding small bore, and a kind of short cutlafs which serves the purposes of a dagger or stiletto, and a common knife; both do terrible execution in their hands. Their dress is likewise well calculated for their manner of attack, being of a coarse dark brown cloath, with a worsted cap of the same colour; so that a man is not easily distinguished from the stump of a tree; on some occasions only, when they have sworn to take revenge for the death of a friend or kinsman, they turn the inside of their cap, which is scarlet, out, denoting their bloody intention by that; and they suffer their beards to grow till they have accomplished their purpose. This they call the *beard of revenge*, *barba di vindetta*; and I have been told, the French have been obliged to use violence to abolish this custom. And it may be supposed that the French barbers did not always trim the vindictive Corsicans in the most successful manner.

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The country in general is mountainous, and covered with woods of oak, fir, and chestnut trees. These last afford the chief nourishment for the poorer sort of inhabitants, who during the troubles, could not find leisure to attend the tillage of the ground : even where the face is less alpine, the plantations are chiefly olive trees or vines, which give the whole island the appearance of one forest.

When you consider how many defiles and natural fortifications such a country affords, you will easily perceive that necessity alone dictated to the Corsicans that mode of warfare they have uniformly adopted, and in which they excel.

Time only can discover, when trained to the European discipline, if they will then preserve their native fierceness, and prove as good soldiers on the Continent as they have in their native soil. You may, perhaps, in this sketch, trace a faint likeness between these people and the savages in North-America.

VOL. I.

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I shall not attempt to enquire how far it is founded, or whence it originates ; but if you, or some of your friends are fond of systems, and of reducing particular causes to general rules, I can furnish you with one trait in their character, which has been equally observed in the natives of America.

This is the profound secrecy with which they conduct their national affairs and conspiracies. The surprise of the *Capraia*, a small island between Leghorn and Corsica, was planned a long time before it was put into execution, and several individuals entrusted with the secret. Yet the Genoese government with all their spies, had no suspicion of what was going on before the garrison was compleatly surprised. I relate the event only for this circumstance ; for in itself it was of little consequence. In like manner they conducted the conspiracy, named of *Val de Nicola*, because it was there it first broke out, was ripening for some years, and thousands had bound themselves by oath to extirpate the French ; yet
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MAJOR M'GAURAN. 171

the first intimation they received of it, was from an open insurrection in one province; nor was it without great difficulty that they could quell it, and retain possession of their conquest.

I am tired, and remain your's, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

H 2

LET.

L E T T E R XVIII.

London, Dec. 25. 1785.

AFTER I had received the certificate I mentioned in my last, I took leave of the general and my other friends, and set out with a Corfican guide and two horses, one of which I mounted, and the other carried my trunk, while the guide walked before from Murato for Porte Prunelle, where I intended to embark for Leghorn.

We reached Borgo the same evening, and early next morning continued our route towards Compoloro, distant a day's journey, over high mountains and the worst of roads, and no resting place except a cabbin or hut about half way, where we arrived at noon. Here my guide gave me the unwelcome intelligence, that, as his horses were tired, it would be impossible to reach Compoloro that night; and that as there was no other

house

house on the road, we must put up with such accommodations as offered in that place till the next day.

The only provisions we found were chestnuts and bad wine, which were tendered us by a young girl, about fifteen years of age, or thereabout, who had been left by her parents to take care of the house, as they perhaps thought her youth and innocence would prove a protection in those turbulent times, and in a place where scarcely a day escaped without its being visited by some armed party, either French or Corsican. After some conversation, which on my part was carried on half in Italian and half by signs, the girl told me, that she had a few eggs, which were intended for an opera singer, whom she expected very soon on his return from the general's quarters. This intelligence had no small effect upon my empty stomach, and I began to exert all the powers of rhetoric I was master of, in a language I hardly understood; and even offered money; but all in vain. The girl continued inexorable,

nable, and I might have gone supperless to sleep, if my guide had not come to my assistance, by telling her, that the same horses he had with him, were, on his return, to convey the musical gentleman to the sea-side, which would hardly take place before three or four days, when in all likelihood the eggs would be spoiled. This argument prevailed, and the eggs were at last dressed for our meal, which I devoured with the keenest appetite; and with the chesnuts and the wine, such as it was, tolerably well succeeded in pacifying the importunate cravings of nature. My spirits being something elated, I began to take notice of our pretty hostess, whose name was Antonietta. For her part, hunger having not entirely got the better of every sense, after consideration, she had already observed with surprize, my flaxen locks and blue eyes, so uncommon among the sun-burnt inhabitants of Corsica; I had therefore, infinitely less difficulty in making myself understood; and it was not long ere we could converse with fluency together.

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gether. You may guess from this, my good friend, that "*the nut brown Maid*" had made an impression of the tender kind upon me; and I have reason to believe, that I was possessed of a greater share of her affections than she could be aware of, in her unexperienced situation. My guide happening to leave the house to attend his horses, I determined to make the most of what Fortune had thrown in my way during his absence. From words we proceeded to those innocent familiarities which, though only customary compliments with us, yet, as I told you, are in Corsica, looked upon as criminal. Antonietta however did not resent them as such. Night coming on, during our amorous dalliance, we were interrupted by a number of armed Corsicans, who after having lain concealed among the rocks and woods during the day, boisterously rushed into the cottage.

You may easily imagine what passions agitated my breast at that moment. Rage at

the interruption, and the consequent disappointment I thought I had met with, when so near reaching the summit of my wishes, soon gave way to terror at the uncouth and savage appearance of the insular warriors; especially when I recollected, how near I had been to instant destruction on a similar occasion, when I had been less guilty; and that too, from a man, who by his office, was keeper of the peace.

However my fears proved vain; for the Corsicans, after having contemplated me from head to foot, without vouchsafing to open their lips, calmly seated themselves round the fire, and began to roast chesnuts, with which they eat, and drank pure water,—a moderate meal indeed after innumerable toils and hardships.

Yet I was not without apprehensions; for as I could not perfectly understand their conversation, in which the words of shooting and killing often occurred, my conscience made me believe they were forerun-

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ners of my fate; and I must own, that as long as they staid in the house I was uneasy; for sometimes I thought they would remain all night in the hut; but happily before it was far advanced, the guide came in, and gave advice of the approach of a body of French troops, as near as he could guess, about 300 in number. This piece of intelligence seemed to throw the Corsicans into some confusion, as I imagined. Every man took his arms, and they all sallied out, and left Antonietta and me to procure what terms we could from the enemy.

These soon after entered the cabin, and, upon the whole, behaved extremely well, much better than I had expected. Their commanding officer, a middle aged, very polite man, checked some of his subalterns, who were going to take indecent freedoms with the girl. And perceiving I was no Corsican, asked my name and country, and, being informed of both, they marched off

in a very orderly manner, having first perused my passport.

In about an hour I heard a brisk firing at some distance from our cottage, which gradually drew nigher, and with little intermission continued till day-break, when I could perceive the French retreating, not in the best order, pursued by the Corsicans, who afterwards informed me, that, having intelligence of the way the French party were to take, they had lain in ambuscade, and had succeeded in surprizing and defeating them with considerable slaughter, and but little loss on their side.

During the night I was obliged to give Antonietta all the comfort I could ; the lovely maid stuck close to my side, and every time she heard a discharge of the musquetry, clasped me in her arms with all the strength she was mistress of. You know how easily love steals in when compassion has possessed the soul. Such was our case. And while the
con-

contending foes were dealing death and destruction, we dealt life and pleasure to each other. How different was the scene I was obliged to behold when day-light appeared ! The victorious Corsicans forced me along the field of battle, to contemplate the bodies of the French who had fallen in the engagement, which they shewed with an exulting and barbarous satisfaction I could by no means partake of, as I had not the same motives to be incensed at the conquered. Indeed, from the dissimilitude of the conflicts we had been engaged in the preceding night, my soul was far from being wound up to that savage pitch of fierceness with theirs.

What shocked me still more was, to hear that they denied sepulture to such of the enemy as had fallen in war, as a punishment for their daring invasion; and left their bodies a prey to birds. Of this I saw repeated instances, not only in those who were killed in the last skirmish, but in many others; who, according to all appearance, had remained se-

veral weeks in the same situation, as their bones were picked quite clean. Though I had come with an intention to fight with the Corsicans, I could not help lamenting, that enthusiasm for a cause, however just, should extinguish every sense of humanity, and reduce mankind to a level with the brute creation.

After having compelled me for some time to survey the effects of their bravery, my troublesome companions pursued their march, and left me at liberty to return to the hut, where I found the guide and his horses waiting for my departure. I entered to take leave of my charmer; but how much was my surprize, when she declared her intention of putting herself under my protection, and to accompany me to Leghorn, where she had many relations, and hoped to exchange a restless life for one of more ease and pleasure. She produced a portmanteau, in which she had packed up her things, and desired it to be put on the same horse which carried mine;

to which proposal the guide assented, as he remarked, it would serve as a counterpoise to mine, and therefore rather advance than retard our journey. After having given me a silk glove, containing all her ready money, amounting to 40 sequins, about 20*l*. which she requested me to take care of, she mounted behind me, and we set off for Port Prunelle, where we arrived towards the evening, after a pleasant journey.

The captain of the felucca provided us with a tent, and plenty of provisions for the night, and declared his intention of sailing the next day ; but when I told him he must likewise take Antonietta on board, he refused to do it, unless she had a passport, as no master of any vessel could convey any passenger out of the kingdom of Corsica without it, under the severest penalties.

This declaration threw the girl into the greatest apprehensions ; however, I soon relieved her, by assuring her, that whatsoever
might

might be the consequence, I should never think of leaving her ; and that if the man persisted in his resolution, I would sooner lose my passage on board his vessel, than leave the island alone. This seemed to pacify Antonietta for a while ; and soon after we were both extricated from our disagreeable situation.

But as I perceive that my letter has run to a considerable length, I shall conclude by assuring you,

I am, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

L E T.

LETTER XIX.

London, Dec. 30, 1785.

IN my last I broke off my narrative at a most disagreeable period of time. The master of the felucca having peremptorily refused to take Antonietta on board without a passport, and seeing that I was determined not to leave her, set sail and left us to reflect on our situation, and on the means to extricate ourselves out of it. We passed an hour in this irksome state, walking along the shore, when at last a vessel appeared standing in for the land. I made a signal, upon which the master sent his boat on shore, and laid to, (she proved to be a Neapolitan tartan, bound to Leghorn) who readily agreed to take us on board, and demanded four sequins for our passage, which I consented to pay.

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I now discharged the guide, giving him for his extraordinary trouble three sequins, about *thirty shillings*, a sum with which he seemed highly satisfied, and Antonietta and I embarked immediately with our baggage and provisions in the highest spirits, at being so unexpectedly relieved from our distress. We sailed with a fair gale the greatest part of the day, and in the evening arrived at the desert island of Pianosa, about half way between the Corsican and the Tuscan shores.

It is the constant custom with small vessels that navigate in the Mediterranean, never to lose sight of the coast, that on the least appearance of danger, either from the elements, or what they are still more afraid of, a Barbary corsair, they may escape on shore, where they run their vessel into some creek, or drag it up the sand, when the beach is open and offers no shelter. As there are no tides, at least not commonly observable, in the Mediterranean, and these country vessels being of
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a small draught of water, they are soon put out of the reach of the destructive waves.

When they are obliged to cross from the main to some of the islands, or back again, they always follow the coast to that part where the channel is narrowest, before they commit themselves to the open sea. This they call *fare canale*; if becalmed, they make use of their oars; and in winter, or during the time of the equinox, they frequently go out of their track in search of some small island on which they may pass the night. To this there are no exceptions, unless in the summer months, when the nights are short and the weather settled. Then they sometimes are bold enough to *Fare Canale* during the night. From these extraordinary precautions it is, that so few of the small Mediterranean vessels with lateen sails ever perish, though they venture all along the Spanish coast, and the Maltese spronaroës, which are open boats with eight oars, go beyond the Streights, as far as Lisbon. Square-rigged vessels cannot,
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it is certain, navigate in the same manner, and therefore losses are more frequent.

Indeed, it is not to be wondered at; the Italian sailors are as able as these of any nation to work a ship, when they are trained to it; they manage their lateen sails with the greatest dexterity, as they are used to them from their infancy; and what perhaps may appear extraordinary to those who have not beheld it, is, that they mount aloft on the mast without any assistance from shrouds or rattlings.

But the reason of their inferiority is their cowardice. On the approach, nay, on the appearance of danger, their presence of mind fails them, and they know not what to do.

Instead of exerting themselves in proper time for their safety, they begin to pray every man to his tutelar saint, or to the Madona, or vow to visit some celebrated shrine, if they should get into port; in the mean time their bark is entirely at the mercy of the winds and waves;

waves ; if they escape the danger, the saints are thanked for it. Should, however, a shipwreck be the consequence, then instinct gets the better of religion, and every man struggles for his life.

The few that are saved, think themselves beholden to their protector in Heaven, and walk bare-footed to his shrine, where a small picture and an inscription recording the event is suspended where it happened.

To these causes must be attributed the almost incredible inferiority in maritime affairs, of a nation which, with a superior population, and many advantages in point of climate and produce, has an extent of sea-coast, equal to that of Great-Britain and Ireland together.

Our tartan, as I have already told you, was a Neapolitan one, and the Neapolitans are the most dastardly seamen on the Mediterranean: it was now in the month of February,

so that it was not suprizing that they resolved to wait for the return of dāy-on this barren uninhabited rock.

It is nominally part of the Great Duke of Tuscany's dominions, and lies not very far from the island of Elba. In the summer it is occasionally resorted to by fishermen, who have erected one small hut for their accommodation, and occasionally it affords shelter to small vessels, the crews of which, like ours, are afraid of the night. In consequence, we ran our vessel into a little creek, and repaired to the hut, where after lighting a fire, we began to make preparations for supper; and while the kettle was boiling, Antonietta and I walked towards a small elevation, there to contemplate the only beauties the place afforded, the setting sun; notwithstanding the season of the year, the day was fine, and the sky uncommonly clear and serene.

We were at such a distance from the crew, that we could not hear their voices, though
we

we saw the smoke, and with a pretty girl at my side, I must have been near indeed to pay any attention to their calling. The coolness of the evening, however, and the darkness, which to use the Hibernian expression, just began to be visible, admonished us that it was time to retreat to our lodging, such as it was.

But how great was our surprize, when on looking round we saw our vessel making from the island with all the sail they could carry.

The first idea that struck me, was, that the *patrone* (the Italian name for master) of the tartan had seized on the opportunity, when we were at a distance from the sailors, to rob us of our property which we had on board, and to leave us to shift for ourselves, and perhaps to perish on this barren spot. But as we walked, or rather ran towards the shore, I soon perceived another vessel in chace after the tartan, which I judged to be an African rover, and I found afterwards that I was
not

not wrong in my conjecture. From the place where Antonietta and I had been sitting, we could not observe the pirate; and as I mentioned before, we were at too great a distance to hear the crew before they embarked. As I have told you before, the Italians are extremely deficient in point of courage and intrepidity in danger, candour demands that I should give them from my own experience, as well as from the unanimous testimony of every person I conversed with on the subject, the praise of the strictest honesty.

On my arrival at Leghorn, every article belonging to us was most faithfully returned, nor did the crew make any demand for salvage, to which in any other country, they would have thought themselves intitled. I was greatly surpris'd at this uncommon behaviour in persons whom I had suspected of piracy. But several gentlemen who had been engaged for years in the Mediterranean trade assured me, that it was common to trust the masters of the small coasting vessels with property

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MAJOR M'GAURAN. 191

erty and specie to a very considerable amount; and there was not one instance on record, where men of that description had betrayed their trust.

At the same time they told me, that the Italians in general are much addicted to making free with others property, whenever they think they can escape detection. However singular this account may appear, you may depend it is fact.

In my next I shall resume the subject of our distress, after I had been left on the uninhabited island; of this, however, you must not expect a romantic account; for our deliverance from it was by no means preternatural.

In the mean time, I am your's,

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

LET.

L E T T E R XX.

London, January 5, 1786.

ON approaching the hut I found my conjectures verified, and that fear only of being carried into slavery had prompted the crew to put to sea in such precipitation. To my unspeakable satisfaction, I perceived that in the consternation into which they had been thrown by the sudden appearance of the pirate, they had left behind them on the beach all the wine and provisions, together with the culinary utensils, which had been landed for the supper of the whole company. The danger of famine was thus removed, for some time at least; but darkness coming on, banished the dawn of hope I had before cherished, that our bark would return; for as long as the vessels were perceptible, the chase seemed to continue.

On receiving this intelligence, Antonietta, who had repaired to the hovel before me, sunk lifeless to the ground; however, with the application of some cold water to her face, she soon revived, though she appeared at first in the deepest dejection of mind. For my part, except the concern I felt for the situation of my little Brunette, my spirits were not in the least depressed; and to prevent the intrusion of melancholy reflections, I made a hearty supper, and drank freely of the wine. It was with great difficulty, however, I prevailed on my companion to taste any food; to my intreaties she answered, that death was preferable to the life that awaited us on that desolate spot. At length she consented to take some nourishment, and likewise a glass or two of wine; this partly restored her to her spirits; and the night passed far more agreeably than our late disaster seemed to portend.

In this manner we continued three days, during which, our time was devoted to love;

and even Antonietta did not much repine at our forlorn condition, which was hourly becoming worse; yet at that time I was not sensible of it; and had I been certain of never wanting the necessaries of life, I should not have wished for a happier one.

On the morning of the fourth day a galley approached the island, and soon after several of the officers landed. The noise of the chains worn by the convicts and slaves on board, alarmed Antonietta greatly; I therefore led her to the ruins of an old fort, where she could secret herself, till I had reconnoitred to what nation the vessel belonged. It was not long before I perceived an officer in a scarlet uniform, with a white cross at his breast: concluding him to be a Knight of Malta, I accosted him, and found he was so, and commander of the galley, which was going to Leghorn. When I had informed him of my disaster, which appeared to surprize him greatly, he very humanely offered to take me to Leghorn; for which I returned him

my

my thanks ; adding, that I would gladly accept the favour, provided he consented to take my companion likewise ; and when I conducted him to the place where Antonietta was concealed, his astonishment encreased at seeing so smart a girl in such a desert place ; and gallantly said, he would have thought a similar adventure a most pleasing one, to have experienced the happiness I must have enjoyed.

About noon we embarked, and bid adieu to our desolate abode. A few hours after, we descried a vessel that had the appearance of a Moorish cruizer ; the galley immediately gave chase ; and, with the assistance of the oars, soon came up with her, when she proved to be what we had imagined. Her commander refusing to strike, notwithstanding his great inferiority in force, a short engagement ensued, in which she was sunk. We saved only a few Christian slaves, from whom we learned that she was the very same privateer which three days before had chased our

tartan off the island of Pinosa; but that she had not been able to come up with her before darkness had favoured her escape. They further informed us, that the vessel we had destroyed was a half galley, and belonged to Tunis, which place they had left but ten days, without making any prize; as her bottom it seems was foul, and they were so crowded with hands, that they never dared to carry a press of sail, for fear of oversetting. This is frequently the case with all the smaller piratical vessels, some of which are not much longer than a first rate's long-boat; considerably narrower, and of a higher construction; yet the Reis, or chiefs, take as many volunteers as their boat (for it is no more), can hold, without considering what provision they have, and how much such a weight of men will endanger the vessel in stormy weather. Their mode of manning vessels for a cruise is curious; I shall therefore insert it as I heard it related by a gentleman of undoubted veracity, who resided many years in Barbary. When a privateer is ready to sail, a horn is
founded

founded in the market-place ; on which the rabble, instigated by the prospect of plunder, run in shoals to the port, and crowd on board as fast as they can. When the compliment is full, two or three Moors belonging to the vessel, with drawn scymetars, attack those who still attempt to enter while she is getting under weigh.

The reason why the commander fought so desperately against a vessel of such superior force, and carrying such heavy metal, was, that being a Genoese renegado, he was afraid of finishing his career on a gibbet, if taken, and therefore preferred drowning.

As, perhaps, you have never seen a galley, except in prints, I think that a short description of these vessels, which are almost grown into disuse, will not prove unacceptable to you.

Gallies, as they are built at present, exceed those of the ancients very much in magnitude.

They have the same length of keel as a line-of-battle ship, though much smaller in all their other dimensions. The largest of them draws little more than six feet water at the stern; and the distance from the water-line to the deck is about thirty inches.

They have two masts only, which are short, and very thick; one is situated rather before the midship beam, the other near the stern, and inclined a little forward. They have each a round-top, somewhat resembling a basket in shape, which contains a centinel. They have no top-masts, but only flag-staffs. The yards are of an enormous length, and have triangular sails made fast to them: these are not of canvas, but of a sail-cloth peculiar to warm climates, which is chequered blue and white. The upper extremity of the yard, when hoisted, is adorned with a broad pendant. The ward-room and cabin are at the poop, and rise very much above the deck; before them is a space allotted for walking, and where a guard is stationed, which answers

to a ship's quarter-deck. The space from this to the foremast is filled with the crew, who, when they are at sea, are always exposed to the air; but when in port, are sheltered by an awning made of coarse felt, suspended from the main-yard, which, when laid down horizontally, reaches from the head to the stern. In this space are likewise the oars, from four-and-twenty to thirty on each side; these are worked by condemned criminals, or by Moorish slaves, who are chained two and two, and never stir from their benches; two couple are on each, and have one oar to manage. From the poop to the foremast, knees are fastened to the ribs, which project about six feet outwards; these support a frame of timber, on which are the benches and the oars, so that the *Cicerma*, or slaves, never enter the galley. When they are rowing, a seaman is stationed to every oar, to direct them, and to see that they pull in time. The upper works of the gallies being so much broader than the lower part, afford an additional security to those long and narrow vessels in a

rough sea ; and their masts being low, they are seldom in danger of oversetting. Somewhat of the kind is observable in the vessels of the islanders in the South-Seas, discovered by our late circumnavigators. Their guns, of which the largest galley carries no more than five, are placed at the prow, just before the fore-mast, where a kind of platform is raised over them, and manned with marines in an engagement. The *Rostrum*, or head, is, like the poop, adorned with carved work gilt, and not unfrequently strengthened with a brazen point, to run into the sides of vessels they intend to board. Their compliment is from four to six hundred men ; about one half of whom are slaves, the other half seamen, soldiers, and officers. In a calm they could, with the assistance of their oars, greatly annoy a vessel of force ; but in the lightest breeze the galley would soon be disabled, as she could not use her artillery ; whilst the enemy might, with their small arms only, from the quarter-deck and tops, make a dreadful carnage among her defenceless crew.

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These motives, joined to the difficulty of stowing a sufficient quantity of provisions on board for a long cruize, have probably determined the greater maritime powers on the Mediterranean, the French and Spaniards, to cease keeping them up. I must not omit one circumstance that will surprize you greatly; this is, that many fellows engage voluntarily to serve in the galleys for a term of years, and that for a very small premium only: they are allowed no pay; nor are their provisions better than what is allotted for slaves, and their treatment is in every respect the same, which is often such as to make humanity shudder.

When at sea, they are day and night chained to the benches, which are uncovered, and open to the waves and spray of the sea; this, however, keeps them from rotting in their own filth. They are besides most unmercifully beaten for the least transgression; and the boatswain and his mates, not to lose time in enquiries after the offending individual,

indiscriminately lash the four that are fastened to the same bench.

As this digression has, I fear, taken up too much of your time already, I will here close my letter, and resume the subject in another. Till then I remain,

Your's, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

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L E T T E R XXI.

London, Jan. 10, 1786.

THE next morning about sun-rise we arrived at Leghorn, a well known seaport in the Duke of Tuscany's dominions: we came to an anchor in the road, as we were not permitted to enter the Mole, having the captives on board we had saved from the Tunisian pirate; for the same reason we were ordered into quarantine for twenty days. This is not performed there in the careless manner it is in England. The cargo is after a certain number of days, conveyed to places called lazarettos, where it is kept in airy warehouses for some time, and every package opened for fear of contagion; nor are passengers or seamen from a ship, if coming from any part of the Levant, or the coast of Barbary, or that has had on her passage communication with any vessel from those parts, suffered

to go on shore until the expiration of a specific time; during which they may either remain on board, or go to the lazaretto, where they are confined as in a prison, and suffered to speak with their friends only in the day-time through a grate. The vessel has likewise a guard stationed in her from the health-office, nor is she allowed to enter into the mole until entirely unladen, and then the guard remains to prevent the crew going on shore, or strangers coming on board. The lazarettos are surrounded with a wall and ditch, and have a garrison of invalids, commanded by a captain, who is at the same time the civil and military officer. There were two at Leghorn at that time, and a third was then building at a greater distance from the town, as the Turkey trade was encreasing, and the two first were not spacious enough for the reception of the goods and people. Every master of a merchant vessel, on his arrival, is examined upon oath, and commanders of men of war on their word of honour.

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A transgression of these laws is punishable with death, and the military stationed along the sea-coast in Tuscany have orders to fire indiscriminately upon every person attempting to land in a place where there is no health-office ; even if a ship is wrecked, the inhabitants are strictly forbid under the same penalties, to have any communication with her, or afford her any assistance, till the officers of the health-office have previously examined and sworn the survivors, or taken such precautions as they may deem proper. Perhaps by way of shewing great mercy to an offender, he would only be sent to row all his life in the gallies.

The Chevalier who had so generously relieved us from our distress, being obliged to proceed on his cruize, intimated to Antonietta and me, that we must go to the lazaretto. As I did not like the thought of being locked up in a room as soon as dark, and left to my own meditation ; two people not being allowed to remain together during the night, and my companion seemed likewise

wife averse to *solitary confinement*, I hired the state-room on board a British vessel lately arrived from Ragusa; the quarantine she had to perform being no longer than ours.

For some time after we were on board, we lived very sociably with the captain; and as we were supplied with the best of wines and provision the season could afford, every day from shore, we were perfectly pleased with our situation. This harmony, however, was soon interrupted; for one day when I went out in the boat to fish with the mate and one of our guards, the master availing himself of my absence, took some improper freedoms with Antonietta, which she resented with all the spirit of a Corsican, and drawing her filletto, would have stabbed him, had he not warded off the stroke which he received in his left arm. I thought him sufficiently chastised for his presumption, and contented myself with quitting his table during the few remaining days we were with him. When these were expired, we underwent another exami-

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examination from the physician of the health-office before we were permitted to go on shore. This is merely a matter of form, in order to put some fees in his pocket; for after so many days, it is certain that there can be no infection, as the plague breaks out instantly, and never remains lurking in the body. Antonietta went immediately to her friends, who overwhelmed me with thanks for my kindness in protecting her, and shewed me all the civilities in their power during my stay at Leghorn. Here I met with the captain of the tartan we had sailed in from Corsica, who, to my great surprize, faithfully delivered every article of our baggage.

Soon after I was introduced to the acquaintance of Count Rivarola, of an ancient Corsican family, and one of their most zealous patriots. He had the title of a Sardinian consul; though in fact his business at Leghorn was merely to send intelligence to General Paoli, and to take care of the interests of Corsica; he received me with the greatest cordiality

cordiality as a volunteer in the same cause, and his house was constantly open to me. Since the conquest of Corsica, he has by his Sardinian Majesty, been promoted to the post of commander of Villa Franca.

Here I did not entirely lose my time, but employed it in observing the remarkable things that are to be seen at Leghorn in the company of some English and Irish travellers, with whom I had become acquainted there; at their request I agreed to go with them to Pisa, an ancient city, about fourteen miles distant from Leghorn, which at that time was the residence of Prince Charles Edward, known by the name of the Pretender. A few anecdotes of this extraordinary personage, the greatest part of which I collected from my own observation, and had the others from the best authority, shall together with my own adventures at Pisa, form the subject of my next letter.

In the mean time, believe me, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

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L E T T E R XXII.

London, January 17, 1786.

PRINCE Charles Edward Stuart lived in a retired manner at that period, in the city of Pisa, where he went by the name of Count of Albany.

Whether he really had, or only affected a partiality for whatever was English, I know not; but this is certain, that in his dress and exteriors, he closely imitated the customs of this nation; and that, whenever he met any individuals of it at a public place, he was more than commonly civil to them. His equipage and attendants were not distinguishable from those of a private gentleman, excepting in the arms and liveries.

Humble and unassuming, however, as he appeared in his behaviour when in public, he
was

was quite the reverse at home. Though the state of his finances did not permit him to enjoy the pomp and magnificence of a sovereign, he had at least all the external marks of respect due to majesty paid him by his domestics; nor would he admit any stranger to his presence, unless he consented to approach him as a monarch. Some Italian parasites, with a few Scotch and Irish adventurers, filled the several offices in his court, and household. The house which he inhabited, was stiled a palace, one of the rooms an antichamber, and the best apartment in it, by means of an elbow-chair, under a canopy, transformed into a presence-chamber. When he was more than commonly pleased with any of his sycophants, by way of reward, he bestowed on him some English or Irish title; and nothing irritated him more than to name a peer of Great Britain in his presence, especially if he had been created since the revolution. The Lord in waiting, as he was called, when the Prince enquired after news and arrivals of strangers, took care never to offend
in

in that particular ; but when any British peer was to be mentioned, he did it always by his surname only.

This etiquette excepted, he was not proud, but very affable, and readily mixed in conversation. When at table, ceremony was as much observed as ever ; and the servants were obliged to present every thing to him on their knees. But as soon as the cloth was removed, all restraint was banished likewise, and as of late he had addicted himself much to drinking, he relaxed in his cups considerably from his dignity. He was then the first to speak on topics which in the morning it would have been highly improper to mention ; and his adventures when in Great-Britain, were always one of the principal. One day when wine had perhaps a greater effect than usual on his powers of elocution, and some of his guests did not seem to pay all the attention he wished to the relation of the battle of Culloden, he conducted them to the garden, where, with the assistance of his servants, and
the

the statues that were in it, he gave the company a representation of that memorable event; which however in all its parts, did not agree with historical truth; for by his exertions in putting every thing in order, he wrought himself up to the highest pitch of phrenzy, and actually assailed the representatives of the English battalions, who as they dare not lay hands on the majesty of their master, were soon totally routed, while his trusty Highlanders, together with the French auxiliaries, personated by the white washed statues, remained in undisputed possession of the field. Some of my companions expressing a desire to be introduced to him in the presence of one of his gentlemen, Major M'Mahon, he very obligingly undertook to gratify it. Impelled by curiosity, I accompanied them to the place where we were ushered into a room denominated the anti-chamber. Here we were left an hour to contemplate the hangings and pictures, some of which were by eminent masters; at length the Lord in waiting came and conducted us into an interior apartment elegantly

gantly furnished, and in a few minutes the Prince made his appearance. His person has been so often described, that any account of it would be superfluous here ; I shall only observe, that his misfortunes and probably long habits of drinking, had greatly altered his features. He was in his youth the fine figure represented in his portraits.

After the ceremony of our introduction was over, he entered into conversation with each of us for some time on different topics, until a Mr. M'Kenzie, but whose real name I afterwards learned was M——y, asked him with a sneer, if he ever attempted to revisit Scotland ; at this the Prince changed colour, and darting a look of indignation at Mr. M——y, told him to depart from his presence immediately, and then withdrew seemingly high incensed. Upon this we retired, exceedingly hurt at our companion's behaviour, which was, all circumstances considered, unworthy of a gentleman ; and when on our return he exultingly boasted of it, we
were

were unanimous in censuring his conduct: this enraged him so much, that giving us the appellation of Jacobites, he challenged any one of us to disprove it with his sword.

As every one was eager to chastise an insult so personal to himself, we could not agree who should have the preference, and therefore drew lots for it, when it fell upon me. We walked to an unfrequented place, situated between the cathedral and cemetery, so famous for the destroying powers of its earth, which is reported to be that of the Potter's Field, bought with the money which was given to Judas Iscariot for betraying his master; and in which the flesh of the corpse is consumed within twenty-four hours after interment. In this gloomy spot we drew, and after a few passes, I run Mr. M. through the sword arm, which disabling him, and tying a handkerchief round his arm, I supported him back to the inn, where a surgeon was sent for to dress up the wound.

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My companions complimented me on the spirit I had shewn, and the generous use I had made of the advantage Fortune had given me over my antagonist.

The news of the duel soon reached Prince Charles, who sent Major M'Mahon to request I would immediately attend him, which I did. He received me very graciously; passed many encomiums on my behaviour, and, as a mark of his favour, presented me with a purse of sequins, together with a journal of his adventures after the battle of Culloden, till he effected his escape from Scotland, which he ordered the Major to bring from his closet.

I accepted both; but alledged that, in chastising Mr. M——'s rudeness, I had merely vindicated my own honour, which I considered as wounded by his gross violation of the laws of hospitality in my company. I would here insert the journal; but as the ingenious

genious Mr. Boswell has published one similar to it, I refer you to his travels.

This event recalls to my mind the behaviour of that great man, and your favourite author, Voltaire, on an occasion somewhat similar; which was such as betrayed the most sordid disposition, notwithstanding his efforts to conceal it. I had the anecdote from an officer of distinction, with whom I became acquainted when I served on board the Russian squadron; its authenticity therefore you may rely on.

The Empress of Russia, to testify her approbation of Voltaire's writings and abilities, sent Prince Domaschnew, afterwards President of the Academy at Petersburg, who is of one of the first families, and a literatq himself, to compliment the hoary sage at Ferney in her name; at the same time she transmitted him a copy of the instructions which had just been drawn up by her, and published for the

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use of the deputies of the several provinces of the Russian empire, who were to frame a code of laws from them; this was accompanied by a most gracious letter in her own hand-writing. As a further mark of her regard, the Prince was to present him with a superb pelisse, and a rich gold snuff-box, with her portrait on the lid, richly ornamented with brilliants.

Domaschnew set out on this commission with the same satisfaction as if he had been employed in an embassy of the highest importance. Voltaire received him with all the haughtiness of a sovereign. The Prince thinking the letter and the instructions would flatter his pride most, and make him unbend his brow, delivered them first. The old man read the letter over in haste, looked at the book, and laid them down, without one expression of satisfaction, in the most careless manner. The pelisse was then brought, and delivered to him with a handsome compliment.

ment. As it was winter, and Voltaire was remarkably chilly, a smile beamed on his countenance, especially after the Prince had made him observe that it was of black fox, a fur equally scarce and costly, and only to be found in the northern parts of Russia; but when Domaschnew exhibited the snuff-box, and was just going to offer it in the name of his mistress, who, since she could not enjoy the happiness of being near him, wished at least that her picture might serve to put him in mind of her; the aged literato started from his couch (which hitherto he had not left) his eyes sparkling with a lustre at the sight of the diamonds, that almost vied with theirs; and snatching the box from the Prince's hand, before he had finished his speech, almost stifled him in his embraces, calling him his *cher ami*; and repeatedly expressing the great and *eternal* obligation her majesty had laid him under. This fit of gratitude, however, was only temporary; nor was his behaviour to the Prince, during
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MAJOR M'GAURAN. 219

the time he staid at Ferney, less supercilious than at their first meeting.

I shall now leave you to reflect on this characteristic trait of your admired author, and conclude my letter with assurances of my being unalterably

Your's, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

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LET.

L E T T E R XXIII.

London, January 24, 1786.

THE city of Pisa exhibits the remains only of its ancient grandeur. It is divided into two equal parts by the river Arno, which is navigable for small vessels; the quays on both sides, with the marble bridge over it, form a fine *coup d'oeil*; but the rest of the town does not correspond with it. The population is so inconsiderable, and the poverty of the inhabitants so great, that in several streets one would be led to believe the place had been deserted some time since. Most of the houses have gardens, or rather fields adjoining to them, so that not half the ground within the walls is covered with buildings.

At the time I was here, the Great Duke of Tuscany made it his residence during the

the winter, as the climate is much milder than at Florence; and a few English and other foreign families having settled there, gave the town rather a more chearful aspect. Some of the palaces, ornamented with marble, and all the beauties of architecture, had exchanged their paper for glass windows; and the owners of them, by letting them out, were enabled to indulge themselves in something more than the mere necessities of life. During the Russian war its prosperity seemed in some measure to revive, as the Generals and Admirals of that nation fixed their quarters there, when on shore, in preference to the noisy crouded port of Leghorn. The Great Duke likewise made several attempts to introduce a spirit of industry among the Pisans, and even expended considerable sums for that purpose; but the ill success that attended his efforts, gave him a dislike to the place. The Russians left it at the peace, and the other families dispersed, which, as I am told, made the town as dull and as

solitary as ever ; and that the grass again grows in several of the streets.

Round the place where I fought with Mr. M——y, is a groupe of stately buildings ; the cathedral, the *Battistero*, a chapel appropriated for christenings ; the leaning tower, the cemetery, the archbishop's palace, and the great hospital. The first, though a Christian temple, is decorated with many basso-relievos on the outside, which evidently owe their origin to heathenish times, the brazen gates excepted, which are of a later date, and are finely cast, and embellished with figures, representing the most interesting events recorded in the Old and New Testament. The structure itself was raised during the most prosperous era of the Pisan republic ; and the greatest part of the marble employed in it was brought by her victorious fleets from Asia and other distant countries. The *Battistero* and the leaning tower appear to be of the same period, and are in the same style of architecture, which is a compound of the Greek,

Greek, and what we call the Gothic. The tower is remarkable for inclining so much on one side, that at the summit it projects, according to repeated measurement, fifteen feet beyond the foundation. Architects are not agreed whether this tower was designedly constructed so, or whether the foundation has given way in later times; for my part the latter seems to me the most rational conjecture, as it inclines towards the river, and most of the buildings on the side of it appear to have given way in the same direction. In houses it is not so perceptible, as they generally support each other; but the observatory, which was built by the late Emperor within the last half century, and is only twenty feet lower than the leaning tower, visibly inclines on the same side, though it is erected upon the strongest foundation, and is adjoining to other buildings. Whichever of these suppositions you chuse to admit, it will not be denied, that the architect who raised the tower has left a monument of superior abilities; for if its position was originally erect,

the fabric was so strong, and all its parts so firmly connected, as to sustain no injury by the foundation giving way ; and if it was intended it should incline, it required still greater skill to execute such a plan. When I mentioned the cemetary, or Campo Santo, I omitted to add, that the walls which surround it exhibit several of the oldest paintings in fresco, anterior to the restoration of the fine arts, now extant ; and which, notwithstanding their great antiquity, retain all the original brilliancy of their colours : the subjects are mostly legendary tales.

The church belonging to the **Knights** of St. Stephen next attracted my attention, being adorned with the trophies taken by that order in their engagements with the Turks. This institution was originally similar in many respects to that of Malta, and formerly held in great esteem ; but since the extinction of the house of Medicis its patrons, and the discontinuance of the galleys, it has, like many others, degenerated into a mere name, and is scarcely known beyond the narrow bounds
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of the Tuscan dominions. There is at present a seminary or military school for the young knights, who are sent there for a few years to complete their education.

To lovers of local antiquities, Pisa may afford considerable entertainment, as there is hardly a corner in it which is not celebrated by its historian for some remarkable event; but to one who does not much interest himself in the feuds and animosities that distracted a small republic some centuries since, of which the name only remains, most of them will appear scarce worth noticing.

One, however, I must mention, as it strongly marks the savage cruelty of that age, and the catastrophe has been so feelingly described by Dante, the first poet that wrote in the Tuscan language. This is the tower in which the Archbishop of Pisa starved Hugolina and his sons to death. I will not pretend to decide whether it is absolutely the same; but it is shewn to strangers as such. The extensive plains of Pisa are bounded on the north by

a chain of mountains, at the foot of which are the baths, four miles from the city. These are resorted to in the autumn by great numbers of strangers from all parts of Italy. The conveniences for bathing exceed those of any I have seen ; but as the waters have no great medicinal virtues, they are more visited by company for the sake of amusement, than by invalids.

About three miles to the east of the baths are the springs which supply Pisa with water, deemed the purest in Europe, next to that of Bristol ; it is conveyed by the great reservoir about a mile down the ridge of the mountain in a covered canal, and four miles across the plain is an aqueduct on stone arches. This work, which would done honour to the Romans, was erected by the Great Dukes of the House of Medicis, who, after they became sovereigns, laid out great sums of money on public buildings, in almost every part of their dominions.

As the country between these mountains and Pisa is quite flat, the arches break the uniformity of the prospect, and in some places

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when viewed from behind trees or vines, render it picturesque.

Besides the high road which on both sides is planted with mulberry trees, there is another communication between the baths and the city of Pisa, by a navigable canal which joins the Serchio and the Arno together : what renders this remarkable, is, that great part of it is carried over a space much lower than the bed of either river ; and to avoid the inconvenience of locks, it is enclosed by dams. In one place a rivulet, which serves as a drain for the adjacent country to the sea, passes under both the road and the canal which is there sustained by an arch, and several smaller cuts or drains are likewise continued under it.

The resemblance of this canal to the Duke of Bridgewater's, induced me to mention it here, and as it was compleated many years before the latter was begun, it is not improbable that the engineer may have taken several ideas from it, which he has only improved upon. I do not mean by this to refuse Mr.

Brindley the merit of invention ; perhaps he had never seen the canal described above ; but certainly he cannot claim the merit of novelty in conducting the Duke's.

Ten or twelve miles to the south, are the hills, or *colline* of *Pisa*, which are in a high state of cultivation, and ornamented with many elegant rural seats.

The total want of good spring water in most parts of these hills is singular, and equally so is the matter of which they are composed. Tho' at a considerable distance from the sea, the soil is filled with the shells of marine animals, the strata of which in some places are exceeding thick, in others mixed with sand. What conclusions you will draw from these facts I know not, nor how you can reconcile them with the reasoning of your favourite Voltaire ; for my part, I think they are easily accounted for : but I will leave you to speculate on the matter, assuring you, I ever am, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

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LETTER XXIV.

London, Jan. 30. 1786.

ON my return to Leghorn, I flew to visit my dear Antonietta; but how great was my disappointment, when her relations informed me, that she had, during my absence, been sent to a convent to compleat her education!

As I had a number of genteel acquaintances, and my military character gave me access to all public, and many private diversions with little expence, I did not feel her absence so much as if I had lost her on the island of Pianosa.

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to speak with fluency ; for this purpose I frequented as much as I could the company of the natives, in order to acquire by practice, what no instructions can give the right pronunciation.

At last, however, I grew tired of an inactive life ; and as the news from Corsica became daily worse, and some of their most sanguine patriots began to give up all hopes of resisting much longer, the arms of the *French Monarque* ; I determined not to lose my time in a place where I had hitherto only remained in hopes of receiving a summons to join General Paoli : in consequence, I took my passage on board an English ship bound for London, where I hoped to meet with better success. But not to interrupt the relation of my adventures subsequent to my arrival in England, which are intimately connected with events far more interesting than any that have hitherto been the subject of my letters, I shall conclude the present with a short
account

account of the city of Leghorn.—This place is remarkable for carrying on the greatest trade with England of any sea-port on the Mediterranean; and I shall again have occasion to mention it in the sequel of my narrative, as it was resorted to by the Russians during their war with the Turks, for the use of refitting and victualling their fleet.

That it must have been a maritime place of some note, under the government of the Romans is highly probable, as their lighter vessels, either gave or took their name from it. Be that as it may, after the irruption of the northern nations in Italy, and the overthrow of that empire, it soon dwindled to a mere village, inhabited only by fishermen. The convenience of a natural basin, which is now used as a wet dock, most likely determined the famous Countess Matilda, the favourite of Pope Gregory the Seventh, to build a castle for defending its entrance.

This

This is still standing, and serves as a kind of citadel towards the sea-side; soon after this, Leghorn fell into the hands of the Genoese, who either sold or exchanged it with the Pisans, to whom it was a desirable acquisition, as their harbour was not far from it, in a place from which the sea has since left it, and where the remains of the antient fortifications may be seen to this day. When the Florentines conquered the Republic of Pisa, Leghorn became of course theirs; but as they had no navy, and were continually distracted by factions and civil wars, it was suffered to remain a place of little consequence, till they were forced to submit to the sovereignty of the house of *Medicis*.

The princes of that family soon perceived of what importance it would be to them, if properly improved. *Cosmo* the First, as soon as he had established himself firmly in his principality, and added the state of Sienna to his other dominions, turned all his thoughts on becoming a maritime power, and with
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this view planned the present city, together with an artificial harbour, on a scale that would have been worthy of the greatest monarch, but too extensive for the revenues and power of a Great Duke of Tuscany: death overtaking him in the midst of his projects, his two sons, Ferdinand and Francis, his successors, executed them in part only. The old town was enlarged, and fortifications were erected according to the original plan; but the harbour was completed on a much smaller scale, after several unsuccessful attempts had been made to follow the design that was first intended.

From this period Leghorn increased in population and commerce, beyond the most sanguine expectations of its sovereigns. The great immunities that were granted to new settlers, and the perfect security they enjoyed against the pursuits of justice and their creditors, soon made it the refuge of all the outlaws and banditti of Italy, which being at that time in a convulsed state, abounded with them.

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There is some similitude between the beginning of this city and that of ancient Rome, as they were both peopled by the scum of the neighbouring states. The descendants of the first Romans, notwithstanding their ignominious origin, soon became more virtuous than any other people, and for ages preserved that character. This was owing to the necessity they were under of toiling for their subsistence, and of defending it against powerful neighbours.

The Leghornese, on the contrary, protected by a government sufficiently strong to keep the petty Italian states in awe, while by its policy it could so manage matters between the courts of France and Spain, as to be courted by both, had nothing to fear from foreign enemies; and a free trade to almost every corner of the globe, afforded them not only the necessaries, but the greatest of luxuries, consequently the parallel will hold no farther: indeed were I to judge of the character of the inhabitants from their own report,

port, and to try every man by the verdict of his neighbours, I should be led to think that they had advanced by a retrograde motion, and that the present race had even degenerated from their ancestors. But these are evidently the dictates of commercial jealousy, which in that place seems to reign in a superlative degree. From this cause, perhaps, originates the partiality of the Leghornese for strangers; of this I can speak from experience, as their attention and politeness to me, rendered my abode amongst them extremely agreeable.

Leghorn, though small, is exceeding populous; the inhabitants are computed at upwards of forty thousand, of which number about one quarter are Jews.

There are, besides, traders from almost every nation, who severally, but especially the English, enjoy great privileges. If you consider that the circumference of the walls is little more than a mile, and that there are

no

no suburbs, you will easily agree with me in thinking that there is not, perhaps, another spot of the same extent on the surface of the globe, that can afford an instance of equal population; extraordinary as this may appear, the reason is obvious; the great immunities and privileges granted to foreigners, induced numbers of adventurers from every quarter to settle in the place, which was soon found too small to contain them; but the fortifications were compleated, and the town could not be enlarged, without incurring an enormous expence. Suburbs might have been erected if the adjacent country had been less unhealthy at that time; the inhabitants were therefore obliged to crowd together, and as they have increased in number, the houses have been raised.

The necessity of having a harbour in their dominions, could have determined the Great Dukes to bestow enormous sums on a spot at once barren and unhealthy, as the whole coast of Tuscany is destitute of one. For

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this purpose, Leghorn seemed peculiarly adapted; besides the natural basin above-mentioned, the road is very safe, and in fact a harbour itself of that kind, called a *submarine* one; as it is formed by a reef of rocks, covered only by about two feet of water. The southernmost point of it is marked by a tower, called the *Melora*, which serves as a sea-mark to approaching vessels. However, as it is open to the south-west wind, and the best anchorage is a considerable distance from the shore, the present was deemed necessary for the convenience of trade.

This is entirely a work of art, the mole or pier has been erected in the midst of the sea, and the harbour which it incloses, has been deepened by blowing up the rocks that formed its bottom.

Leghorn is regularly built, and without being adorned by any remarkable or magnificent structure, may be called a neat handsome town. The only work of art that is worthy

worthy the attention of strangers, are the four colossal brass statues of Turkish slaves, which serve as supporters to a marble statue of one of the Great Dukes, of very indifferent workmanship.

This city being a free port in the most ample signification of the word, and trade not restricted by prohibition, or heavy duties, it is of course exceedingly flourishing there. And as the sovereigns of Tuscany have of late observed a perfect neutrality in every war, the fleets and privateers of the belligerent powers have generally made it their rendezvous, and at once enriched and enlivened it. The Russian war, in which I served, has been the foundation of many private fortunes there.

The environs of the town, as I mentioned before, are not pleasant; and though improving cultivation, has rendered them somewhat more healthy, they are still as dreary as ever.

Part of the country is low, marshy soil, but lately abandoned by the sea. This, as well as the higher land, is entirely destitute of trees, which if planted, unless sheltered by a wall, would be blasted by the south-west wind. With regard to the naval and military establishments of Tuscany, they were both very inconsiderable at the time I was there; and I have since learned from good authority, are at present reduced almost to nothing. Three frigates formed their whole naval force, to which was attached a corp of marines, composed of picked men, well appointed and disciplined. Two battalions of the only regiment of regulars in the state, with a small detachment of artillery, garrisoned in Leghorn; of these I can only say, that their discipline and appearance were equally bad. A troop of horse was stationed at some distance, to prevent desertion, and a few invalids in the small forts on the sea-coast. Were I to close my account of this part of Italy, without taking some note of the ladies, you would, doubtless, wonder at such an omission

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in one who had always been so partial to the fair sex : it is on this account that I am concerned, Nature obliges me to state it as my opinion, that they are in general very inferior to those of Genoa in personal beauty and elegance ; and their awkward imitation of French fashions, renders that inferiority still more conspicuous. Of their characters I will not pretend to judge ; my stay was too short to attain a competent knowledge of it, and Candour requires that I should not hazard conjectures grounded on superficial observations and report. Having thus given you an idea of a place so much frequented by the commercial part of the world, nothing remains, but to subscribe myself, &c.

EDWARD M'GAURAN.

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